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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-242 *16 December 1994*

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London TV Reports Differences at Tunis Talks

NC1412201994 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the absence of Syria and Lebanon, which are boycotting the multilateral peace talks, the seventh session of the working group on armament control and security in the Middle East resumed in the Tunisian capital today. Some 40 countries are taking part in the session held under the patronage of the two sponsors of the peace process, the United States and Russia.

There is disagreement at the conference between the Arab countries and Israel on armament control. Mufidah Hashani has more details in this report:

[Begin recording] [Hashani] The draft declaration of principles on armament control and security in the Middle East dominated the second day of the multilateral talks. These talks, which were resumed in closed meetings, produced deep division between the Arab and Israeli sides. MBC obtained an exclusive clarifications of the issue despite the reticent atmosphere surrounding the meetings.

['Abdallah Tuqwan, Jordanian delegation's head and adviser to King Husayn] The Israelis refuse to include in this declaration anything on freeing the region of nuclear weapons. They say this is Israel's policy and that the time is not right. But we say no this is the right time because it is a declaration of principles, a declaration of good intentions and building confidence in the region. These are the principles on which we will build all other topics concerning armament control and regional security because we are talking about conventional and nonconventional weapons. [passage omitted]

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli-PLO Negotiators Conclude Talks in Cairo

'Arafat More Flexible on IDF Presence

TA1412131594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Dec 94 pp A1, A12

[Report by Yerah Tal and Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has adopted a slightly more flexible position with regard to an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] presence in West Bank towns during the elections in the territories. Political sources in Jerusalem said that 'Arafat is now prepared to seriously consider the possibility of the IDF's retaining what 'Arafat described as small "symbolic" forces in the West Bank towns, even while the elections are being held, on the condition that the troops maintain a low profile. [passage omitted]

'Arafat is still making his agreement to hold elections conditional on the withdrawal of most of the IDF forces from West Bank towns and their redeployment outside the population centers. He is prepared to discuss which type of units will be allowed to remain in West Bank towns and is willing to consider the possibility of Israel's retaining small numbers of soldiers, mainly for observation purposes. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, who heads the Israeli delegation to the Cairo talks, said yesterday that "the talks would open in a businesslike atmosphere." Savir asserted that 'Arafat and Peres had a good meeting. "We will now start working pragmatically in small groups, like we did during the Oslo negotiations, and without making any declarations," Savir said. "There will be four people from each side, with one committee and no subcommittees." Savir added that "both sides had agreed to avoid arguments over issues of principle, but rather to make practical progress toward implementing the next stage of the Declaration of Principles, to which both Israel and the Palestinians are committed." Savir said that, in addition to the Cairo talks, informal talks were also being held at senior levels whenever necessary. Israel sees progress in 'Arafat's agreement to hold frequent meetings with Rabin and Peres in order to expedite the process and overcome difficulties that arise in the negotiations.

On the other hand, Israeli security forces yesterday claimed that the delegation to the Cairo talks had received instructions not to make rapid progress in the negotiations. The members of the delegation were asked to avoid dealing with substantive issues and to continue focusing on technical issues such as the framework and agenda of the talks.

The sources claimed that these instructions had come from a senior government official. The sources asserted that no real progress should be expected during the current round of the Cairo talks. Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, who represents Israel on the committee entrusted with negotiating the IDF's redeployment in the West Bank, refused to comment on these reports yesterday. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 14 December in a report by political correspondent Sha'ul Schiff on pages 1 and 2 adds that "Israel will propose that the Palestinian Authority put off the elections for one year in order to give Israel time to pave roads that will bypass large towns in the West Bank that the IDF will withdraw from. This had been revealed prior to the resumption of talks in Cairo between the PLO and Israeli delegations on the implementation of the second stage of the Oslo agreement.

["Rabin presented 'Arafat with two alternatives: first, to agree to elections without an IDF withdrawal from the large towns and, second, to hold elections in one year. 'Arafat has rejected both options and demands the full implementation of the agreement according to which the IDF has to pull out of Palestinian population centers prior to the elections for the Autonomy Council."

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[HATZOFE notes that "political sources have estimated that due to the complications surrounding the implementation of the Oslo agreement, the negotiations can continue for one year. In the meantime, the timetable set by the agreement has been canceled after the dates specified on it proved unrealistic. 'Arafat has threatened to ask the international sponsors of the Oslo Agreement to demand that Israel implement the agreement in full."]

Withdrawal in 'Janin, Bethlehem First'

TA1612060294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Dec 94

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Janin and Bethlehem first—this is what the Palestinians propose as the first stage of an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the main cities in Judaea and Samaria. In the latest meeting between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Stockholm, the Palestinians demanded the evacuation of Palestinian towns in Judaea and Samaria in which and next to which there is no significant number of settlers. The cities mentioned in the meeting were Janin and the Bethlehem area, which includes the towns of Bayt Jala and Bayt Sahur. The Palestinians say that Foreign Minister Peres promised to seriously look into the idea, and that this proposal is compatible with the notion of graduality designed to settle the conflict between them and Israel, notwithstanding the principle set by 'Arafat whereby elections will not be held until the IDF redeploys in the West Bank, as stipulated in the Oslo accord.

During his visit to Norway, officials from Norway, Finland, Belgium, and Denmark informed 'Arafat of their willingness to send police forces to deploy in the territories as a temporary international presence. Norway is in charge of coordinating the forces slated to carry out this task.

The Palestinians emphasize that they understand Israel's security needs, but that a withdrawal from the main cities in Judaea and Samaria should come first and that security issues, the safeguarding of major roads and settlements in Judaea and Samaria, should be specifically dealt with only later.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 16 December reports: "Israel and the PLO have reportedly moved closer to an agreement on Palestinian elections in the territories after two days of talks in Cairo." It adds that "at the end of the Cairo talks Israeli delegate Uri Savir said both sides were beginning to understand the other's needs. Savir went on to say that the Palestinian side showed sensitivity for Israel's security predicament. Palestinian representative Nabil Sha'th said Israel promised wide application of universal suffrage to include the largest number of Palestinians. But, he added, there were problems about whether Muslim fundamentalists could run as candidates. The two sides were still at odds over the size of the elected council and whether Palestinians outside the autonomous areas could run for seats. Prime Minister Rabin and PLO leader 'Arafat are to meet next week to try and finalize an agreement."]

Sha'th, Savir Comment on Talks

NC1512205494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—Palestine and Israel decided to call for a meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel to discuss the Palestinian refugees problem in the implementation of the accords signed between the two sides.

This was announced by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation and head of the Palestinian side at the joint meetings with Israel.

At a joint news conference with Yuri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry and head of the Israeli delegation to the meetings, after their round of talks this evening, Sha'th said he signed the official letter of invitation on behalf of Palestine today. He added that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will sign it for his country.

Sha'th said that during the current round of the Palestinian-Israeli talks, agreement was reached to hold a meeting of the Higher Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee in Cairo next week. He added that he will chair the Palestinian side at these talks, while Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will lead the Israeli side.

Sha'th noted that some progress was made at the current session, which involved very intense and detailed meetings on all issues concerning the transitional phase.

He stressed the need for good preparation for the topics to be discussed at the forthcoming summit meeting between the head of the Palestinian Authority, Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin according to their agreement in Oslo after 'Arafat returned from Casablanca. Sha'th did not specify the date and venue of the meeting.

Sha'th said: We agreed on the first set of civilian powers to be handed over to the Palestinian Authority, which basically deal with economic issues such as trade and industry. An agreement was also reached that the (Karni) and Erez areas in the Gaza Strip be turned into industrial zones, in which the Palestinian Authority will establish new industries.

Regarding Israel's policy of closure, Sha'th said there was an agreement that Israel should not restrict trade and investment or close international crossings in future. Israel also agreed to increase the number of Palestinian workers permitted to enter Israel for work to 44,000.

He said he sensed a willingness on the Israeli side to make some profound progress on the election issue,

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especially concerning the Israeli forces' redeployment outside the West Bank cities and villages.

Sha'th affirmed that some progress was made on holding legislative elections as the Israeli delegation responded to the Palestinian side's earlier proposals. However, he refused to elaborate on the Israeli response or on what he meant by progress in this regard.

He noted that the discussion of the election issue will be continued next week. He affirmed that both the Palestinian and Israeli delegations realize the importance of expediting the peace process and the importance of this process covering the West Bank, not just Gaza and Jericho. He said the two sides also realize the importance of security, not just for the Israeli people but also for the Palestinian people as the two nations represent the cornerstones of the peace process.

He said the legislative elections will take place with the greatest freedom and will include all potential candidates. He denied any agreement on the number of Palestinian legislative council members.

For his part, the Israeli delegation head, Yuri Savir, said that this round was more positive and that both sides exchanged various views on elections. He added that the Palestinians should run their own affairs.

Israeli Response to Proposals 'Minor Progress'

MC1512161994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, stated today that for the first time, Israel today submitted its response to the Palestinian proposals on holding Palestinian legislative elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during the current round of talks held in Cairo. This was described by Sha'th as minor progress in the Palestinian-Israeli talks.

Sha'th, who is chairing the Palestinian delegation to the talks, did not reveal anything about the Israeli response. He said this response was conveyed to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat who is currently in Casablanca, Morocco, participating in the Islamic Conference Organization summit.

Sha'th Lists Topics Discussed

JN1512193094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian negotiating team in Cairo, has said that the talks with the Israelis set out to devise a mechanism for the full implementation of the provisions of the Declaration of Principles relating to the withdrawal and redeployment of Israeli forces outside of West Bank cities and villages, elections, an early transfer of the remaining civil powers, and legislative amendments. The Israeli team, Dr. Sha'th said, reiterated their commitment to the Declaration of Principles and supplied their answer to the Palestinian election plan. The talks also addressed freeing detainees and prisoners held in Israeli jails and safe passage [between Gaza and Jericho]. Another topic was the movement of goods and transport in the territory administered by the National Authority. The Israeli side, according to Dr. Sha'th, agreed to exclude the old (Carl) airport vicinity from the security belt so it could be used for a Palestinian industrial zone.

Further on Sha'th Remarks

JN1612083294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A round of Palestinian-Israeli talks on legislative elections and redeployment of the Israeli occupation troops in the occupied West Bank was concluded in Cairo yesterday without agreeing to the size or method of Israeli withdrawal prior to elections.

His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are scheduled to meet next week to discuss issues impeding the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to Cairo negotiations, said at a news conference at the conclusion of the talks that Israel has for the first time presented detailed proposals on the self-rule council and that these proposals have been conveyed to President 'Arafat. He said the two sides agreed to hold a meeting for the committee in charge of discussing the issue of displaced Palestinians, but no date was fixed for the meeting. This committee is comprised of the foreign ministers of Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, and Israel. The two sides also agreed to hold a meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee to complete discussion of outstanding problems. Sha'th stressed the need to spread the national authority to the rest of the West Bank as soon as the Israeli forces are redeployed. This, he said, is the main topic of the negotiations.

For his part, Uri Savir, head of the Israeli delegation, said Israel abides by the provisions of the Declaration of Principles on redeployment. He added that 3,500 Palestinian workers have been allowed to enter Israel. This raises the number of workers allowed to work in Israel to 44,000.

Israeli Team Leaves Cairo

MC1612085294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2321 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—An Israeli delegation led by Yuri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, left Cairo tonight after attending a round of Palestinian-Israeli talks that ended in Cairo today.

This round of talks dealt with the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the West Bank cities and villages.

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Palestinian Delegation Leaves

NC 161200GMT Cairo MENA in Arabic 1007 GMT 16 Dec 99

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—Jamil al-Tayifi, Dr. Nabil Qasis, and Dr. 'Ismat al-Sha'ath, members of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with Israel, left Cairo early this morning.

Al-Tayifi said the Cairo round of negotiations was a continuation of the talks held by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Oslo.

He said the negotiations dealt with the provisional stage, namely, the elections and the redeployment of the Israeli forces in two phases. The first phase of the redeployment, he said, will take place on the eve of the elections; the Israeli forces will move completely out of Palestinian cities and villages. The forces will then be redeployed in specific, agreed-upon locations. Palestinian forces will also be deployed. Later, powers will be transferred to the [elected] Palestinian council and a committee will be set up to review the laws on the council's powers.

Al-Tayifi said the two sides offered important ideas and reviewed the lessons of the deployment of forces in Gaza and Jericho, but no details were disclosed.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Rajub Said To Arm Wardens of Collaborators

TA151300GMT Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Dec 99

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian security services in Jericho have armed dozens of released prisoners who murdered collaborators so that they can defend themselves against retaliation by relatives of the murdered people.

Jibril al-Rajub, head of the Palestinian security service, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the decision was made in the wake of the murder of Sa'ediyya Yunis, who was killed as an act of retaliation after her husband, a released prisoner, killed a collaborator. Al-Rajub also said he would not hesitate to request assistance from the Israel Police to capture Yunis's killers.

Drones Arming Released Prisoners

TA151200GMT Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Dec 99

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel Jibril al-Rajub, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service, today denied that released prisoners in Jericho have been given weapons by officials of the Palestinian Authority in the wake of the murder of Ra'ediyyah Yunis and the injury of her husband Ibrahim Yunis a few days ago in the town. In a statement to our police affairs correspondent Ruvik Rahlin, Col al-Rajub added that at the same time he has have adopted special measures, in anticipation of expected acts, to protect released prisoners who have killed collaborators.

Fatah Urges Israeli Redeployment Before Elections

TA151200GMT Jerusalem Al-Ardinah in Arabic 15 Dec 99 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ministry of Information, the Press Office—The Fatah Higher Committee in the occupied territories held a meeting in Ramallah yesterday in which it discussed the political situation, the Israeli army redeployment, and elections. Marwan al-Barghuthi, general secretary of Fatah in the occupied territories, said that at its meeting the committee stressed that elections should be held after the Israeli army's withdrawal.

He added that the committee warned of the dangers of Israeli delay in implementing the second part of the Oslo agreement, which provides for redeployment and the holding of elections. Al-Barghuthi called for reinforcing the Palestinian negotiating delegation's point of reference and strengthening the delegation with new and qualified capabilities. [passage omitted]

Hamas Leader Denies Receiving Aid From Iran, Syria

TA151200GMT Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 15 Dec 99

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Gaza, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fundamentalist group denies it is receiving any aid from Iran and Syria. Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas leader in the Strip, called PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's statements to that effect in Oslo a lie.

Hamas Warns of Possible Halt in Dialogue With PA

TA151206GMT Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0507 GMT 15 Dec 99

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists are not at all pleased with the way the dialogue with the Palestinian Authority [PA] has been going. They say Hamas is the strongest political faction in the Palestinian opposition, it enjoys broad public support, and the PA must treat it seriously. The two sides had agreed to set up a joint reconciliation committee with the mediation of Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi and Shaykh Wadhah Nasr Darwish. Hamas claims that the committee has made no real progress in the field and that its activities have been merely screened toward the media and have not solved any problems.

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[illegible] Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the leaders of Hamas and a member of its [illegible] committee, has criticized the committee's media approach saying it has been working slowly and does not have a coordinated working program. Also, the Hamas activist stated it is unclear whether the committee members belong to the PA or to Fatah. There is no problem between Hamas and Fatah, the main problem is in the relations between the PA and Hamas, they say.

They are also angry with PA/Fatah leader Yasir Arafat, who has continued to talk out of Hamas and to appeal to Arab and world powers in an evolving way from Iran, in spite of the fact that the agreement settling the dispute between the two sides included a commitment to tone down mutual accusations. Hamas representatives say that the continuation of such pronouncements will lead to a halt in the dialogue between the two sides.

Differences Among Opposition Factions Discussed

GA010115Z970130 London AL-ZAYS [illegible] in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Jan 97

[Report by Ibrahim Hamami in Damascus: "The Rejectionist Front and the Democratic Front Against Hamas and Other Talk About Their Recent Differences and Contradictions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The chances of the extension of unity between the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements seem to be as slim as those of the statements by leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) about the establishment of a "front-wide" between the two fronts. This is in spite of the fact that the leaders of the two organizations are unanimous on the importance of raising the level of organizational relations among them in the light of the general internal and Palestinian conditions pertaining to Arab and of any official relation with the Palestinian authority (PA) [as closing statements as published].

While the question of unity between the two Islamic movements has been confined to mere "consultative contacts" between Islamic Jihad leader Dr Fathi Al-Shaqaqi on the one hand and Hamas Political Bureau member Mohammad Nazzal, Musa Abu-Marzuq, and Ibrahim Ghawshah on the other, the ups - or at unity between the PFLP and the DFLP has gone beyond that, to the raising of wider issues such as the merging of the two fronts and the "election" of Nayif Hawatmah or George Habash as secretary general, something that is difficult to achieve under the two organizations' current systems.

The raising of the talk of some form of unity between the two Fronts in the absence of the other six factions in the Alliance of 18 factions implies that such agreement would drag the idea of the "Alliance of Palestinian Forces" opposed to the Oslo agreement or at least to restrict its movement, confining it to no more than the issuing of statements on some occasions, which is due to the use of establishing the alliance was a [illegible] to the PLO, playing a national council holding popular conferences and "lifting the lid" to expose PA leaders' [illegible] and the agreements which the alliance members "were determined" to bring down "sooner or later" on 13 September last year.

Whatever the reasons for the said division, the current talk of unity centers mainly among the two fronts' [illegible] to square one as their normal ties, namely lack of confidence and hostility between the leftist and Islamic, and so the one hand, and between the communists and the Islamists on the other hand.

Both Hamas and the Islamic Jihad have a [illegible] "cops on guard" on the left in the Palestinian arena and the fears of their remaining supporters because the two organizations see no big difference between the left's organizations and the PA, as they support its plans and the existence of the PA.

The PFLP and DFLP are trying to edit their words and their thoughts in the face of the "Islamic" tide and to reconsider some of the attitude and enabling strong links with the authority and the agreements which have so far not been brought down. For this reason, there could be no objection to appointing [illegible] members of the front to Gaza in accordance with the proposal by the authority, of whom there are [illegible] committee members, namely, Abd al-Rahim Abu-Hilal, Sami Al-Sarsak, and Nihad Abu-Ghawsh. Nahad has also agreed to work in the Gaza [illegible] area, holding meetings of its front with al-Talb Village Man Hamas, al-Fatah Al-Mushtarak, who have joined the higher committee of the authority. Also pressing objections to their alliance colleagues to work on issues like the prisoners' PFLP Deputy Secretary General Abu-Al-Abbas is to ask for the "dismissal of Abdallah from the Political Bureau." The participation of Al-Abdallah's men were even more than one of the reasons of Mohammad Al-Abbas' of the PFLP's, who became a cabinet in the military security forces in Gaza.

The raising of the issue of unity also shows that it is "the practical struggle" inside and not "the raising of slogans" that determines the fate of alliances in other words, the two leftist fronts cannot establish an account with a third leftist organization such as the Popular Front/General Command which is led by Ahmad Jibril [illegible] which has struggled in recent years for the alliance with Iran because of its pro-Syrian tends, as well as the Popular Struggle Front led by Samir Ghawshah.

It is significant that the failure of any forces, and particularly Hamas, to impose itself as a leader in the Alliance of Forces has led to attempts to achieve this through a leadership of one, or two against the remaining eight. The PFLP is trying to impose its leader and political heroes on the DFLP which in turn aspires to do the same thing on the grounds that there are no basic differences or contradictions between the two fronts.

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Pages from 9/10 Summit as 'Destructive'

BBC/AI/2011/76 London Al-Quds al-'Arabi in Arabic 1/ Dec 94 p1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "The Islamic Terror Will Continue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The seventh Islamic summit conference began in Casablanca this morning. Half the Arab leaders attending it do not speak to one another and the other half have nothing to say. That being the case, we do not know how they are going to solve the numerous problems on the agenda including the Palestinian problem, the explosive Jerusalem question, and the deadly situation in Somalia.

Different as they are in approach and appearance, these leaders do not seem to be preoccupied with these "explosive" issues. Their statements of condemnation, denunciation, or support on them have been there and ready for decades. What really preoccupies them and their activist flank who give the orders is "Islamic terrorism" which took after "Communism" and is seen as the only danger threatening world security and peace.

These leaders, ostensibly, unitedly forget the continuing Israeli terrorism in the occupied territory which is crushing the bones of the unarmed children every day, and they ignore the greater terrorism of the United States which is starving 91 million Muslims, on Muslims, to Iraq, denying them food and medicine under numerous pretexts which have now all been invalidated after the Iraqi Yes!, and documented Iraqi recognition of the sacred borders of the state of Kuwait.

Assuming that some extremist Islamic groups do engage in "terrorism," there are reasons for that, ranging from suppression of public freedoms, confiscation of legitimate rights, and the fact that there are leaders at the Casablanca summit representing peoples who did not elect them and had no say in their policies.

The remedy for that terrorism, if there is a real desire to remedy it, does not come from the cooperation of the Islamic security organs with a view to enlarging the circle of repression, not from rivalry in detaining people, building more prisons and detention camps, and importing American and Israeli expertise to support that. The remedy lies in combating the widespread corruption at the peak of power, just distribution of wealth, tackling the acute economic crisis with real pronounced development plans, allowing freedom of expression, and expanding the power-sharing circle.

It may be useful to note here that some of the leaders attending the summit conference are directly responsible for any Islamic or non-Islamic "terrorism," not only because of their corruption and self-interest but also because they had themselves, until recently, sponsored and financed the extremist movements with the aim of undermining secular and liberal movements which, incidentally, they are now trying to sponsor against the Islamic movements, now that the magic has turned against the magician. Such conference no longer fool the people, who have begun to see and look for change.

Some Arabs, having failed even multi-active, are now trying hard to find Islamic prince and drive the Muslims like a flock of sheep toward a position of service to U.S. interests, using their immense financial resources effectively toward that end. It is in the Islamic character to mobilize Iraq to satisfy Kuwaiti grudges, support sanctions against Libya in fulfillment of an American mandate, and starve the Palestinians in the occupied territory and abroad in order to punish the Intifadah and for the Intifadah, although multi-solidarity, and internal divisions!

It is a destructive summit which had, in Tehran, dropped the duty of jihad for the liberation of the holy places, and is now preparing to find a way of forbidding Arab and Islamic sovereignty over occupied Jerusalem and refraining its Judaization. It is not, therefore, expected to pass any resolutions that would benefit this nation and open its enemies. Let us hope we are wrong.

Radio Reports Anti-Israeli Operations

[Article] [illegible] Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0330 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a news report we received shortly before this newscast, al-Quds Radio correspondents say: In a fatal military operation, a young Palestinian have fired several shots at a Zionist officer who was driving through al-Ram in the Ramallah District, in the direction of the settlement of Ofarim al-Tahti, at 0930 today. The Zionist officer was shot in the shoulder and was immediately taken to Hadassah Hospital. The enemy forces sealed off the al-'Ayn Mosque periphery where the heroic operation was carried out. The enemy soldiers also clamped a blanket curfew on Ramallah and al-Bireh and set up scores of roadblocks on all roads leading to the two cities. Al-Quds Radio correspondents say the curfew is still imposed. The Zionist soldiers stopped scores of citizens on the Ramallah streets for interrogation. In the meantime, Zionist soldiers confiscated the identification cards of hundreds of citizens for interrogation purposes at the headquarters of the so-called civil administration.

Despite the extensive Zionist deployment and military roadblocks and the curfew, the brave heroes of the Intifadah managed shortly before noon today to attack a military patrol with empty bottles near al-Ka'ak camp south of Ramallah.

Three Molotov cocktails had earlier burned the earth under the feet of the Zionist invaders in Bir Zayt in Ramallah District. Al-Quds Radio correspondents said the Molotov youths hurled three Molotov cocktails at a vehicle belonging to the Zionist soldiers in Bir Zayt at 1730 yesterday, burning a direct hit and setting it ablaze. A Zionist settler alighted and fled from his overturn-

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Lawn, a Zionist military unit rushed to the scene and took up positions at roadblocks at the entrances of Bir Zayt and the village of 'Atarah and near the Zionist Ofaleemah settlement unit to the al-Irsal [Transmission] event. Our correspondents say the Zionist soldiers provoked drivers and passengers. They searched their cars and inspected the citizens' identification cards. The roadblocks continued until late last night. This morning, a military patrol belonging to the so-called border police provoked our people in Ramallah streets. They stopped youths and inspected their identification cards and searched them, using hard words.

Paper Assails Libyan Treatment of Palestinians

NC0212120894 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Dec 94 p 11

[Editorial: "Libya and Treatment of Palestinians Once Again"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When a state like Libya is subjected to an unjust blockade and continued U.S. and Western conspiracies, its first step should be to look after the friends it has got and to try to maximize the largest possible number of enemies.

But it seems that some Libyan officials—for reasons we do not know—are doing completely the opposite.

One example of this is the report released by Western news agencies yesterday about the death of two Palestinian children from cold on the Egyptian-Libyan border after the border police had prevented their family from returning to their home in Tripoli. We find it difficult to understand the reasons for the way some Libyan security services treat particularly Palestinians in Libya. The Palestinians do not exceed 30,000 in number, and most of them are experts and capable of looking after themselves. They went to the country in response to an official invitation, prompted by the pan-Arab and revolutionary slogans raised by the political leaders. Some of them have not received their salaries for at least 10 months. And if they had found another place to shelter them, they would not have accepted this situation.

We understand the Libyan leadership's rejection of the recent Oslo accord between the main factions in the PLO and Israel. We understand all the descriptions it has attributed to this accord. But what we cannot understand is the Libyan leadership's decision to punish all the Palestinians as a result of this accord, especially as it knows that a large section of them adopt the same position, and the heroic Intifadah operations against the occupation have not been halted, nor will they be halted. If the Libyan Government's decision is to reject the current peace accords, why punish this Palestinian minority out of all the Arabs living and working in Libya and whose numbers exceed by far that of the Palestinians, especially as their governments have signed or are about to sign similar accords.

Libya is indeed suffering from an unjust blockade and difficult economic conditions. But that does not mean that it is unable to host 30,000 Palestinians who had to leave their country as a result of Western and Arab conspiracies. Especially as Libya's oil exports have not dropped by a single barrel since the blockade was imposed.

We are not demanding that anyone share Libya's wealth. However, we hope that some Libyan officials will remember that hundreds of thousands of Libyans were respected guests of neighboring states like Tunisia, Egypt, and Algeria before the oil period. We never heard that Egypt decided to deport them or that Tunisia stripped them of their Tunisian nationality and the rights associated with it, or that it "did favors" to them or their original country. The Libyan Government's pretext for preventing 30 Palestinians from returning to their work could be their visiting their families in the occupied Arab territories. But we do not believe that this pretext is acceptable, especially as more than 160 Libyan Arab citizens visited the occupied land, toured Jerusalem, and then returned to their country respected and revered.

We hope that the Libyan Government officials adopting this attitude will look at Iraq's experience and see how its government—despite the starvation siege and oil blockade imposed on it—has not deported a single Arab from its territory, nor has it in any way discriminated between Arabs and its own citizens. It actually treats them all equally in terms of education, subsidized food, housing, jobs, and health care. And it has not delayed their salaries for even a single day.

We are saying this, proceeding from our care for the Libyan Government, its reputation, its positions, and its revolutionary and human heritage, not our care for 30 Palestinians it has left in the open. Because the Palestinians have been suffering and living in the open since 1948, and they have nothing to lose these days.

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Algeria

FIS Fund-raising Network Discovered

LD1512133394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The entire financial network of the banned Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in Geneva, Switzerland, has been dismantled. The funds amounting to about 10 million Swiss francs were used to arm and pay the terrorists in Algeria.

The list of contributors included 50 Algerian nationals living in Switzerland or Swiss nationals of Algerian origin. Over to Madjid Laguel:

[Laguel] The report issued by Swiss counterintelligence named Mourad Dehini, an Algerian physicist, as head of the network. The discovery of the war treasure [as heard] of the banned FIS was made with the help of the French intelligence service DST [Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire].

The Swiss Government allowed some phone-tapping which enabled the investigators to trace the network right back to Milan, in Italy, where another network was discovered. In Milan, the head of the network is thought to be Djamel Lounici who was arrested in the same city last month. This network bought weapons and explosives in Slovakia and Germany and sent them to Algeria via Hamburg, Antwerp, Marseille, and Nice.

It is worth noting that the German intelligence service recently published a damning report on the involvement of the banned FIS in gun-running operations. Mr. Hannache, the Algerian ambassador to Germany, will now outline for us the main points of this report:

[Begin Hannache recording] This report vindicates the concerns expressed by Algeria and the requests it always presented to the German side to highlight the fact that Germany gave asylum to terrorists, and also [to highlight] the links existing between these terrorists and the terrorist groups acting ruthlessly in Algeria.

Now that the report has established these links and admitted that gun-running operations to Algeria are organized in Germany, the government of that country must translate its words into deeds. In other words, it must unmask those responsible and try them in order to put an end to these networks of death which are hounding Algeria, its people, its institutions, and its dynamic forces. [end recording]

Mr. Hannache is calling on the German Government to take action following the revelations made in this report:

[Begin Hannache recording] For the time being the report is fairly cautious. However, it admits that there are gun-running operations to Algeria and that there are activities in Germany aimed at destabilizing the political situation [in Algeria]. Therefore, I think that some conclusions will have to be drawn, not only by the government [in Germany] but also by the German judiciary which, I must say, is the only competent party to deport foreigners or take measures against foreign groups living in Germany who do not abide by German laws.

As a result, we might expect to see the German authorities and the German judiciary take measures to this effect. [end recording]

FIS: Only Dialogue Can Guarantee a Solution

BR1512152394 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 15 Dec 94 p 15

[Article by FIS President abroad Rabah Kebir: "Negotiation or Dictatorship and Chaos"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Where is Algeria going? This is a question which must be answered. However, in order to outline the Algeria of the future, the country's past, as well as its current situation, must first be briefly summarized.

Our ancestors, the free men—the *amazigh*—used thousands of times their ability to resist foreign domination. Following the adoption of Islam, that ability was substantially strengthened owing to the acquisition of the values of this monotheistic religion and a just, balanced, and tolerant way of life. Becoming in this way the foundation of society, the Islamic religion has been a framework for civilization and spiritual, cultural, social, and scientific emancipation. For centuries, our country was the favored channel for cultural and scientific products heading toward the West, especially through Andalusia and Sicily. However, our people have not ceased to resist attacks, using the values of their religion and their true heritage in order to respond to the attacks of other attempts at occupation.

Following so many struggles, the Algerian people were confronted, once independence was achieved, with a very different situation. The building of the state promised in the historic declaration of 1 November 1954 did not materialize. It failed owing to the conduct of those who took over power and the people's will.

Behind an outward unanimity which prevented any possibility of a public confrontation of different opinions, both political and cultural, the public institutions became a system for the redistribution of the oil revenues within a politico-military- industrial *nomenklatura* greedy for power and wealth.

The system thus constituted could not tackle conflicts without using aggressive methods against the population, such as police and administrative repression. The people, powerful thanks to the civilization sustaining them, went over to resistance, often passive but sometimes active, as is shown by the events of 1980, 1982, 1985, and 1988, which are just the most outstanding episodes.

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With the arrival of the multiparty system, the Algerian people did not hesitate to recognize the political program which would restore to them their authenticity and their values and which could realize their hopes of building a just, modern, balanced society in keeping with their values. The masses confirmed their choice, not only through massive support and mass demonstrations but also by voting for the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in the June 1990 and December 1991 elections.

Disheartened by the positive results of the local assemblies headed by the FIS members who were elected in the 1990 local elections and who led the population to confirm their choice in the December 1991 legislative elections, the politico-military- industrial *nomenklatura* felt threatened in its personal and clan interests, and ended the electoral process in an authoritarian, unconstitutional, and undemocratic way, thus barring the way to any peaceful political and cultural emancipation of the Algerian people.

The actions undertaken against the FIS and its members (disbandment, mass trials, imprisonment without trial, torture, killings...) only drove the people into open resistance against the military dictatorship—the real power behind the institutions which emerged from the 11 February 1992 coup.

The events of the past three years are just the manifestation of the struggle between a dictatorial government, supported by a minority of secularists and communists allied with certain foreign interests, determined not to yield an inch, and a population eager to attain freedom and political, social, economic, and cultural justice; necessary ingredients for building a genuine prosperous modern society in keeping with our people's eternal values."

Algeria is thus at a crossroads. What are the possible choices for present-day Algerian society? There are only two. The first is that the corrupt regime is able to keep going in one way or another. In that event, it will be a regime without popular support and without legitimacy in which the Constitution will be flouted whenever the government so requires, in which laws will be decreed for the strongest to mock them, in which the institutions will be called into question if the clans so require, in which wealth be distributed at the top of the pyramid, and in which poverty and exclusion will be the lot of the people's masses. Religion and culture will be under the administration's strict surveillance. Certain Islamic cultural values will be used as window dressing in order to justify that *nomenklatura's* actions and the repression of the population. Abroad, such a situation would help make security in the Mediterranean region even more fragile.

The other choice is that the people, led by the representative political class, will put an end to the totalitarian regime. Thus the door will be opened to a rule-of-law state whose legitimacy will stem from the people's will expressed through universal suffrage. It will be a state set up within the framework of Islamic principles, and its central element will be the alternation in power of political programs chosen through the people's will expressed at the polls. Freedom and human rights for everybody will be guaranteed, and the state will protect them. This is the materialization of the Algerian state promised in the declaration of 1 November 1954. Under those conditions, the Algerian people will devote themselves to building a free and modern economy able to guarantee them the prosperity which can be expected of a country as rich as Algeria. This will enable Algeria to recover its favored position in the dialogue and cooperation between the Western and Islamic civilizations; hence that state will contribute to prosperity, stability, and security both in the Mediterranean and in the rest of the world.

And the famous third way? The third way is simply chaos, so the reader is left free to imagine the scenario.

We believe that a negotiated solution is the best way out for the current crisis; the only way that can avert dictatorship and chaos. Only dialogue among all the political, Islamic, and national forces (parties and personalities) and the representative political parties' active involvement can guarantee a solution leading to a rule-of-law state which will respect political and economic freedoms, human rights, and the environment, and promote the stature which Algeria's Muslim people have as a civilization.

Fifty Fundamentalist Leaders Said Killed

LD1512141494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the offensive against terrorism resulted in the killing of over 50 so-called emirs in the past two years. These leaders of armed groups are considered to be the main instigators of assassinations and the destruction of the country's economic apparatus.

Moreover, about 100 terrorists have been killed so far this month.

Egypt

Mubarak Returns From Casablanca Islamic Summit

NC1512214794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak returned home at 2245 today after attending the seventh Islamic summit meeting, which ended in Casablanca earlier today.

President Mubarak held a series of meetings on the sidelines of the conference with several Islamic heads of

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state and government who attended the Islamic conference. They discussed the situation in the Islamic arena and issues of common interest between Egypt and these countries.

Mubarak To Visit Israel in Mar 1995

TA1512191294 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Dec 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will make his first visit to Israel as Egyptian president next March. This was concluded today in a meeting between Egyptian officials and Arye Shomer, director general of the President's Office, who arrived in Egypt to prepare for President 'Ezer Weizman's visit to Egypt next week.

Sidqi Holds Talks With Albanian Counterpart

NC1512162094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] After the round of official talks held at noon today at the Prime Ministry between Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Albanian Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi and his delegation, Dr. Sidqi stated that viewpoints between the two countries are in agreement over regional and international issues. He said they discussed ways to bolster cooperation in the future, particularly in the economic and trade sectors.

The Albanian prime minister also praised the excellent relations between Egypt and Albania. He expressed his thanks to the Egyptian people for the hospitality he was given during his visit to Egypt. A number of agreements were signed to bolster cooperation between the two countries in the trade, scientific, cultural, and legal fields. They also signed an agreement to establish a joint Egyptian-Albanian committee headed by the foreign ministers of the two countries to coordinate and follow up on matters that deal with cooperation agreements between the two countries in the various fields.

The talks between Dr. Sidqi and the Albanian prime minister discussed the viewpoints of the two countries on current regional and international issues and means to bolster cooperation between Egypt and Albania in various fields. It is worth noting that the joint committee between the two countries is to meet alternately in Cairo and Tirana.

Sidqi, Meksi Sign Agreement on Commission

AU1512215294 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1900 GMT 15 Dec 94

[Telephone report by Amalia Dhamo in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi and the delegation accompanying him in his visit to Cairo paid homage and placed a wreath of flowers at the monument of unknown soldier and mausoleum of President Sadat.

This morning, too, official talks were held in Cairo between the Albanian delegation presided over by Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi and the Egyptian delegation presided over by Prime Minister Sidqi.

Both delegations stressed the need to strengthen bilateral relations in the future and considered trade, culture, and science to be the most important fields of cooperation. They exchanged opinions about the situation in the Balkans, the conflict in Bosnia, the relations of both countries with the European Union, and multilateral cooperation with Mediterranean countries.

Mr. Meksi pointed out that these talks open a possibility to expand relations of reciprocal interest between the two countries and invited the Egyptian prime minister for a visit to Albania.

Mr. Sidqi expressed the need to bolster cooperation in the future, particularly in the fields of economy and culture, so that they reach a higher level than before because, as he said, interests of both countries favor this.

At the end of talks, Prime Minister Meksi and Egyptian Prime Minister Sidqi signed an agreement to create a joint commission between the Governments of the Republic of Albania and the Arab Republic of Egypt and a program for cultural, scientific, and technical exchanges between both countries.

A trade agreement between the Republic of Albania and the Arab Republic of Egypt was signed by Selim Belortaja, Albanian state secretary for foreign economic relations, and by Mahmud Bayyumi, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade.

A protocol for scientific and technical cooperation in the framework of the agreement for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the Governments of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Albania was also signed. For the Albanian side, the agreement was signed by Maksim Konomi, chairman of the Science and Technique Committee, and for the Egyptian side by Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali, minister of international cooperation.

A protocol for cooperation in the field of justice between the Justice Ministries of the Republic of Albania and the Arab Republic of Egypt was also signed by Albanian Deputy Justice Minister Vladimir Kristo and Egyptian Justice Minister Faruq Sayf-al-Nasar.

Today, too, Prime Minister Meksi and the delegation accompanying him made a visit to the Egyptian Museum here in Cairo.

PM Meksi is to continue his visit in Cairo tomorrow, too.

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Minister Ghali Sets Foreign Debts at $30 Billion

NC1412205094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state in the cabinet for international cooperation affairs, has stated that Egypt's foreign debt totals $30 billion and that this debt will be resettled by 2036. He said that servicing Egypt's debts does not exceed 12 percent of the state's foreign currency revenue whereas the internationally acceptable rate totals 22 percent of these revenues for countries in a similar category as Egypt.

In a statement before the meeting of the week work to activate economic cooperation between Egypt, the Middle Eastern countries, and Europe currently being held in Cairo, he said that Egypt faces no problems in rescheduling its foreign debts and is not thinking of rescheduling these debts again. He noted that foreign reserves in the Central Bank currently total $17.5 billion, which covers more than 20 months of imports. He stressed that the Egyptian balance of payment is stable for the next five years. He pointed out that most developing nations that underwent economic reform programs paid a price as far as the standard of living of their citizens, unemployment, and considerable reductions in the growth of national economy. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister Says No More Loans Needed

NC1512071094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—Economy Minister Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud [Bayyumi] has affirmed that Egypt will not yield to any pressure by the World Bank to devalue the Egyptian pound. He remarked that Egypt is adopting a purely Egyptian economic reform program and that world economic institutions know that solutions will not be feasible unless they come from Egypt.

In an interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH today, the economy minister said Egypt is capable of paying the last batch of its debts to the IMF, $2.5 billion, and that it needs no more loans. The IMF and World Bank have been notified of this, he said.

As for Egypt's role in the regional economy, the minister said that no political or economic arrangements can be made in the region without Egypt's presence, since Egypt has the biggest market in the region.

Asked whether Egypt concluded any deals during the recent economic conference in Casablanca, the economy minister replied that the conference was not held to conclude deals. It was a world economic gathering similar or equal to the Madrid peace conference of 1991, he said, affirming that the Egyptian presence was necessary at that conference to consolidate the peace process.

Twenty-Six Detained for Helping 'Terrorists'

NC1412124394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Minya, 14 Dec (MENA)—The security service in al-Minya has arrested 26 people suspected of assisting fugitive terrorists who are hiding in sugar cane farms and other areas.

The security service conducted an intensive campaign over the past two days involving remote areas and villages, particularly Mallawi. During the raids the security forces found food items used by the fugitive terrorists. The forces arrested suspects accused of providing the terrorists with food.

Lawyer To Resign To Protest MB Practices

NC1412200894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—Ahmad al-Khawajah, head of the Egyptian Bar Association [EBA], stated that he will quit union activities at the EBA's general assembly meeting on 15 February 1995 if the lawyers do not carry out their role of supporting their association in performing its unionist role.

Speaking at a press conference today, he stressed the importance of not letting the EBA's activities be limited to those of the EBA council's Muslim Brotherhood [MB] members who are propagating their ideas and trend and want to exclude other trends from existing inside the association.

He said that, throughout its history, the EBA included members representing all the political trends who could distinguish between their unionist activities and political ones and performed their unionist roles perfectly.

Al-Khawajah criticized the financial and unionist activities of the EBA council's Muslim Brotherhood members, saying that the Public Prosecution Office is now investigating the criticisms and observations made by the Central Statistics Office against them.

He added that the Public Prosecution Office is also investigating the behavior of some lawyers, including the collection of 3 million pounds for a pilgrimage trip without recording the figure in the EBA's books and also their spending of money belonging to some branches on their supporters without having the EBA authorize the expenditures as is the custom.

He said that they refuse to implement the court rulings on allowing some lawyers to join the EBA council because they belong to trends hostile to the Muslim Brotherhood. He explained that they have also stopped backing the Palestinian issue and have devoted their activities solely to supporting the Palestinian Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

[AFP at 1852 GMT on 14 December in a Cairo-datelined report adds the following:

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["Brother spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi denied the charges and called on al-Khawajah to hand over any evidence to the authorities so they could launch an investigation."]

Former Officer To Head al-Jama'ah Militant Group

NC1512074494 Paris AFP in English 1734 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Minya, Egypt, Dec 14 (AFP)—A former army officer is the head of one of the strongest groups of Muslim militants belonging to the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah in southern Egypt, police said Wednesday [14 December].

Ahmad 'Abdallah Isma'il, a 32-year-old science graduate, joined the al-Jama'ah after completing his three-year military service, a police official said.

The suspected militant heads one of the main al-Jama'ah groups in the town of Mallawi, 300 kilometres (180 miles) south of Cairo, he added.

Police believe there is a hardcore of about 50 to 60 militants in Mallawi, which has become their main stronghold after being flushed out of the neighboring Asyut province in a huge police crackdown in July.

Since then around 15 militants have been reported killed or arrested in Mallawi.

Nearly 530 people have been killed since Moslem militants launched a campaign in March 1992 to topple President Husni Mubarak's secularist government.

The police in November shot down three al-Jama'ah members from Asyut in a clash, 380 kilometres (208 miles) south of Cairo, while they were helping the other militants withdraw to al-Minya, the police official added.

The three were Niyazi 'Abd-al-'Alim, 'Isam Karam Hasan and Ayman Hasan Ahmad.

Police imposed a curfew on Mallawi and neighboring villages in late October and carry out daily searches.

But their operations are hampered as the militants keep on the move through vast sugarcane fields spreading over 20,000 hectares (494,000 acres).

Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi was quoted in the government's press Wednesday saying the curfew on Mallawi "won't last for long," and that "the situation in al-Minya was encouraging."

PLO Chairman 'Arafat Arrives in Cairo

NC1612065194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo early this morning.

He was received at the airport by Ahmad al-'Amawi, minister of manpower and employment.

'Arafat Departs Cairo

NC1612154294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has praised Egypt's and President Mubarak's role during the Seventh Islamic Conference Organization Summit, which concluded in Casablanca yesterday. Upon leaving Cairo [for Gaza] this afternoon after a stopover of several hours, 'Arafat said he commends President Mubarak's key, wonderful, and pioneer role at the conference. [passage omitted]

Asked about the date of the summit meeting between himself and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin scheduled to be held in Cairo, 'Arafat said the date of the meeting has not yet been set.

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Bahrain

Amir Delivers Speech, Calls For Solidarity

JN1612094194 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 16 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, has expressed his country's warm welcome of all the brothers who will be attending the 15th Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit in Bahrain. He said: We anticipate with great interest and determination that the summit, scheduled to be held in Bahrain on Monday [19 December], will be a turning point toward constructive, serious, and tangible action to overcome obstacles and to converge around the joint viable interests of the GCC states and of their fraternal peoples in terms of political and economic coordination.

This came in a speech his highness the amir of Bahrain delivered on the 23d anniversary of Bahrain's national day, which is today. His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah stressed the importance of crystallizing regular security cooperation to achieve joint security out of a firm belief that there is no alternative to the GCC as an entity to secure the joint future in Arabian Gulf.

His highness the amir of Bahrain said recent events in the region proved, once again, the particular importance of solidarity in the political, economic, and defense fields in order to maintain the joint borders of the one Gulf entity within the framework of the GCC.

In this regard, his highness noted that Bahrain hastened to stand by the side of the brothers in Kuwait to defend our one Gulf entity and its joint borders and international legitimacy's resolutions. This, he said, came at a critical time and was a practical confirmation of Bahrain's unwavering commitment whenever a situation requires the performance of duty and the shouldering of responsibility at all levels. His highness hoped that this will be a joint policy among all the parties in the region for the sound handling of increasing changes.

His highness noted that these events have at the same time proved the extreme importance of border stability as decided right from the beginning by the GCC sisterly states and the neighboring region. Such stability entrenches existence and the general political map for all in a cohesive manner to avoid the threats of conflicts, whose price will only be paid by the peoples of the region in terms of their security and prosperity.

His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah said that this will only be reinforced through comprehensive positive cooperation among the countries of the Gulf region with a spirit of moderation and understanding and a sincere desire to exchange interests for the good of everyone.

His highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah reiterated Bahrain's stand that peace throughout the Middle East is an indivisible whole and that in order to be lasting and complete, peace should become comprehensive. In this regard, he demanded the exchange of viable interests and border security guarantees among all parties throughout the region and said that stability and security should not be confined to only one side and not the other. His highness noted that Bahrain supports the move toward a comprehensive concept regarding the future of the region within the framework of Arab harmony and international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

His highness the amir of Bahrain said he follows with interest and encouragement the march of the Shura [Consultative] Council, whose beginnings signaled serious efforts to lay down the foundations and later the development and progress of the march of general national participation in the country. We, he added, are very eager to develop this march toward the better. [passage omitted]

Muslim Shiites-Police Clashes Continue

NC1512220694 Paris AFP in English 2118 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Dec 15 (AFP) - Hundreds of rioting young Moslem Shiites in the northeastern Sitrah peninsula of Bahrain clashed with police on Thursday [15 December], according to witnesses contacted from here by telephone.

"Hundreds of youths, armed with iron bars, hurled stones at the police who used tear-gas to disperse them," said one witness, asking not to be named.

"They destroyed the outside of the National Bank of Bahrain, burnt tyres and torched flags and banners raised on the main streets to mark the national day," another one told AFP.

The clashes were reported to be still going on after more than five hours in several neighborhoods of Sitrah where the Bahrain Petroleum Company (BAPCO) refinery and an important water desalination plant are located.

Large numbers of police were deployed in the peninsula soon after the riots started.

There was no immediate casualty toll nor a report on the numbers of arrests.

Arab diplomats in Cyprus said the government's refusal to free Moslem Shiite leader, Shaykh 'Ali Salman, had triggered demonstrations across the country.

Salman was arrested after calling for the "restoration of parliamentary life" in Bahrain, when he preached in a Manama mosque earlier this month, they said.

"Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Al Khalifah met on Monday a delegation Moslem Shiite dignitaries and

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informed them of the refusal to free Salman," one diplomat said, requesting anonymity.

Violent demonstrations followed on Monday and Tuesday with special interior ministry crack units called out of the barracks.

The demonstrations erupted in Manama's city center, spread to the southern suburb of Buday', where tyres were set on fire Wednesday. (Jad Hafs), to the west of Manama, was also affected.

A witness reported that many people were seriously wounded in those clashes.

A diplomat in Cyprus said that police entered houses and arrested young people and well-known personalities.

Police cars and ambulances could still be seen Thursday on the outskirts of the Moslem Shiite neighborhoods of Bahrain, said witnesses.

The Islamic Front opposition group on Wednesday said the country had been under martial law since the beginning of December with a curfew and "dozens of arbitrary arrests."

The front added in a statement issued in Beirut that "a great number of demonstraiors have been wounded during a savage repression."

"The houses of innocent civilians have been attacked in a barbaric fashion and their furniture destroyed in wild searches," the statement said.

It also blamed Britain for allowing "its nationals to head the intelligence services in Bahrain and keeping quiet about the crimes" of the authority.

British officers still head the intelligence services of the country which was a British protectorate from 1871 to 1971.

A national assembly was elected in 1973 in Bahrain but dismissed two years later by the country's Amir, Shaykh 'Isa bin-Salman Al Khalifah, who blamed the MPs for "obstructing" the government's action.

A 30-member consultative council stripped of any real power was appointed in 1992 by the amir, but failed to appease the Moslem Shiites who have staged sporadic demonstrations.

The Sunni Moslem government has said that the Shiite Moslems only represent 35 percent of the population, but Western diplomats have put the figure at more than 55 percent.

Police Search for Suspects

NC1512123594 Paris AFP in English 1215 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Dec 15 (AFP)—Police carried out a big search for suspects in Bahrain on Thursday [15 December] after hundreds of Shiite Muslims clashed with security forces in the capital Manama, diplomats said here.

One diplomat said police raided houses "and arrested youths and Shiite leaders" in the Gulf state. He did not specify how many were arrested.

Police were also posted on roads leading to the main Shiite areas of Manama.

A banned Shiite opposition group, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, said the Gulf state had been put under martial law.

Earlier diplomats said police had arrested leading Bahraini Shiites during clashes on Monday and Tuesday in which several people were wounded, some of them seriously.

They used tear gas to disperse the crowd in the riots, which broke out in the centre of Manama after the government refused to free a Shiite leader.

He was arrested after delivering a sermon in a mosque in early December calling for the restoration of parliamentary life in the country, diplomats said.

Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Al Khalifah informed a delegation of Shiite leaders Monday that the authorities refused to free the detained leader.

The demonstrations spread to the suburbs, including Buday, where tyres were set on fire Wednesday. Jad Hafs, to the west of Manama, was also affected.

Demonstrators Tuesday ransacked a police station after surrounding it, diplomats said.

Groups of 50 to 70 demonstrators armed with clubs and stones kept moving from place to place, the sources added.

The Islamic Front said the country had been under martial law since the beginning of December with a curfew and "dozens of arbitrary arrests."

The front's secretary general Muhammad 'Ali Mafaz, quoting "reliable sources," said in a statement issued from Beirut that "a great number of demonstrators have been wounded during a savage repression" by security services.

"The houses of innocent civilians have been attacked in a barbaric fashion and their furniture destroyed in wild searches," the statement said.

An "atmosphere of terror" reigned in the country, it added.

"Large numbers of intelligence services personnel have been deployed in the streets and barricades erected," it said, and there was "a total news blackout."

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There was no independent confirmation of the reports.

Diplomats said protests erupted last week but were swiftly dealt with.

The Islamic Front accused the authorities of using "blind violence in face of the fair demands of our people, exacerbating the conflicts and angering the population."

It also blamed Britain for allowing "its nationals to head the intelligence services in Bahrain and keeping quiet about the crimes" of the authority.

British officers still head the intelligence services of the country which was a British protectorate from 1871 to 1971.

The group appealed to the international community to help the Bahraini people "get their rights and condemn the repression and flagrant violation of human rights."

The Sunni Muslim government has said that the Shiite Muslims only represent 35 percent of the population, but Western diplomats have put the figure at more than 55 percent.

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National Assembly Session Postponed

[illegible] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic [illegible] 1 Dec 98

[Announcement by National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Honorable members of the National Assembly: It has been decided to postpone the National Assembly session scheduled for Saturday, 1st December, corresponding to 14 Rajab 1419 Hegira, until further notice.

[Signed] Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly

Minister on 'National Faith Campaign' Motives

[illegible] Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 1 Dec 98 p 3

[Article by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, acting minister of social affairs and labor: "Between Religion and Politics: Messages and Significance of the Great National Faith Campaign"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Although the Great National Faith Campaign is known for its noble purposes, aims, motives, and results, we find certain biased circles outside Iraq are trying for unknown reasons and motives to misinterpret its motives and aims, although there are some who have posed legitimate questions that need to be answered. [passage omitted]

We all (how truly) who will that, in 1977, leader Saddam Hussayn declared our party's position and correct conviction on the subject by saying: "Our party is not neutral between atheism and faith, but is always on the side of faith. However, it is not a religious party and it cannot be one." [passage omitted]

This is the correct, revolutionary view on the subject of religion and politics. There is no neutrality between faith and atheism. The party and Ba'thists are with faith. Ba'thists are the nation's attention of its principles, history, symbols, giving, and human aspirations. This is why their party is called the Ba'th [renaissance], with all that this name signifies in terms of religion, heritage, history, social, economic, and political life, and the view of life from all of its aspects.

What we are doing is not something new or opposed from our principles. But, as is known, the leader's viewpoints and political and intellectual considerations are always calculated accurately with regard to both the time and place in which a decision is made. For instance, had we launched the campaign at the peak of Khomeynism, which clashed with us in an unjust aggression, people would have said that we were copying others. The leader said: "People who cannot invent copy others." Or, they would have said that the campaign was an attempt to get rid of the so-called Khomeynite phenomenon which used religion as a cover in order to expand the state of aggression against Iraq, the Arab homeland, and the world.

While acknowledging the Koran have: "It shall not coerce in religion for error is the best manner", we do not hesitate to say that there exist powerful religious currents in the Arab world whose sincerity we do not doubt. But there are also certain political lobbies and responsible officials in the Arab homeland who have turned themselves into guardians of Islam. They try to create political currents which at first seem sincere, honest, and devout, but when thoroughly examined they turn out to be politicized religious groups whose aim is to kill and annihilate fellow human beings for the sake of money, gratuities, deceit, and such other self-known methods which are used to serve Arab states and rulers, as well as Iran. These Islamic factions have, in fact, taken part in the common endeavor to overthrow one regime. But as soon as they differed in attitudes and advantages and the imperialist forces and their intelligence services engaged in to exploit religion for their own purposes, these factions turned against one another.

Therefore, leader President Saddam Hussayn, may God preserve and protect him, decided to embark on the Great National Faith Campaign, which is his own idea and creation, so Islam and religion will be understood correctly by the majority, if not all, the people. There is no dispute over the basics of religion. Some people will soon discover that diligent deliberations do not uproot the existence and the common view of religion and Islam as a motivating spiritual force. [passage omitted]

Thus, the leader began this large-scale campaign in the schools and over the television channels which reach every home. He continued it by ordering Ba'th Party cadres to learn the Koran and the prophet's sunnah. [passage omitted]

Our great faith campaign is not intended to make people Muslims, because the people to which these ideas, guidances, and preaching are directed are Muslims. It is to make them faithful. There is a basic difference between an individual who is a Muslim and a faithful Muslim. An individual can inherit Islam from his parents, as is other religions. Faith comes through learning Islamic religious teachings and understanding and applying them to letter and spirit, in an age which is dominated by materialism. [passage omitted]

The Great National Faith Campaign which is led by the leader Saddam Hussayn is, in addition to Ba'thist principles, a great spiritual revolution in an age in which materialism has taken different forms, dominated life, and threatened the Arab nation, shaking its entity from the roots on the economic, social, psychological, and moral levels. To those who were pleased about the mosques we are building, including the Grand Saddam Mosque, the Great Faith Campaign, and the prohibition of perversions, we say: We are the advocates of the glories of the nation, and our leader is a descendant from

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the noble lineage of Prophet Muhammad. Therefore, he is in a better position than others and more deeply faithful to work and devote to apply the principles of religion without giving them a political cover or splitting society as one do. [illegible]

Paper on Syrian Role To Isolate Palestinians

[illegible] Baghdad AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Dec 94 p 1

[Article by 'Wadi al-Assi Abu-Wafa': "The Cross Continues Our Bleeding Wire is Dead"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since 1973, the year marking the actual beginning of the taming of the Palestinian rifle for the sake of peace, the Syrian regime has been playing the role of a screenwriter clearing the way for Zionist ambitions, which are now being achieved without achieving anything real in return. The Syrian regime began by shooting the Palestinian resistance leadership and slipping its wings. It also provided a cover for the massacre of Palestinians in Tall al-Za'tar and elsewhere when its forces entered Lebanon in 1976. Then the regime itself took part in such massacres following the Israeli withdrawal from Beirut in 1982 (as published) until it forced the PLO to adhere to the plan to pull out and leave for Tunisia, away from the confrontation arena. Meanwhile, the Syrian regime dumped a siege on Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon using its own forces and pursued the policy of splitting the Palestinians from Lebanon. It joined the U.S.-Zionist coalition to oust al-Bashir and attended the Madrid Conference in order to take part in all its settlement steps up to now.

Before U.S. Secretary of State Christopher began his current visit to the area, Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi said: "While Syria has responded to the demands of peace, Israel is avoiding declaring its response to them." Following this statement by the Syrian prime minister, the pessimistic declarations by the Zionists, and Christopher's visit to the area, the countries of the European Union titled the press campaign on Syria? By God, isn't this ridiculous and?? What has Christopher planning in Israel's favor in this whole atmosphere, and what way for is also with him during his past visit? A few days before his arrival, Christopher plucked the fruit while he was still away and handed it to Israel. The Lebanese Government, which is run under Syrian control, has adopted a decision to deport the Palestinian camps in the south on the pretext of disarming all militias and evict the Palestinians who [illegible] under Syrian control day of Nasir al-Sa'. Syrian commander of the Lebanese Forces. This is the current atmosphere. As Syrian regime rules undertake the task of turning the last page on the Lebanon fighter, while it is doing so in the withdrawing and fragmenting atmosphere experienced by the PLO and its leadership that has assumed the self-rule authority.

They are forcing the rifle plus without anything to ensure other than what Israel deems appropriate, and some of them [illegible] Palestinian resistance positions get further plus [illegible] [illegible] a step. Perhaps it is developing with its present instability, the blood that will surge is more. The crisis is and get to others.

Arab Broadcasting Union Celebrates Access to Satellite

[Al-Ittihad] [illegible] Baghdad Arabic in English 0001 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, Dec 6 (INA)—The Executive Bureau of the Arab Broadcasting Union has unanimously decided to be [illegible] the Arab satellite (Arabsat) once again.

In the light of this decision, having to ground various infrastructural [illegible] will be able to receive Arab and international news packages via the new space channel and thus they will transmit as well to the new area matter and services through the union of exchange affiliated to its union.

The union groups in its membership [illegible] Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Algeria, Syria, Oman and Kuwait.

Correction to Financial Statement on UN-Imposed Sanctions

[illegible]

The following corrective version to the one headlined "Statement by the Will the Care of a UN Sanctions," published in the [illegible] December that has a Dutch into [illegible] page 11:

Paragraph two, the sentence ends well ... the Iraq Government banned no nationals minimum food rationing by 25 percent at the beginning of November and ended. "We [illegible] by liberty."

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[illegible] Questions

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[Haaretz] But Hamas could go underground, as it did several months ago, without any Hamas City IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers everywhere and civilians in Gaza and Samaria and throughout the country must be alert and prepared, because the reality we live in is that those who oppose the peace process will be happy to hurt Israelis, both military people and civilians. These people exist, they live among us and they will try to act. We will continue to fight them all the time. Hizballah received very heavy blows in recent weeks.

[Maariv] There are those who call for increased activity north of the security zone.

[Barak] There is a lot of activity beyond the security zone, and it will continue. There are many reasons why we do not inform the public of everything. We do not provide Hizballah [word] anywhere inside Lebanon. We will do whatever we must, we have already said and we will not do what we do not have to do. It is very good that the commander of the Northern Command and his staff—especially in view of his being a new commander—are searching for every way possible to strike at Hizballah effectively, just as his predecessor did. In the end, each express action we carry out must meet the test of how it contributes to the overall aim and of the relative balance that we have to achieve and the complexity of the action. This will guide us in the future when authorizing activities beyond the security zone.

[Maariv] Is there an dispute between the prime minister and the commander of the Northern Command?

[Barak] There is no dispute. We, Ben Levin and whoever he was, I suppose that the prime minister either told what he meant, and Levin told him. That is acceptable to us, because he is the prime minister and defines missions.

[Maariv] Politicians claim that the army's hands are tied by the political solution because of the peace process.

[Barak] The army's hands are not tied. It can initiate military activity as it sees fit, but the reality in south Lebanon is not simple. There is a complex operational reality. There are problems in obtaining intelligence information, and there are the understandings resulting from Operation Accountability which, although they do not mention us, are designed to serve a norm for reaching more than that of a platoon commander who wants to carry out some operation. There always were, still are, and always will be overall policy considerations, and we expect all the top commanders to understand them and take them into account when we recommend, authorize, and carry out actions.

[Maariv] That means that the political solution is not telling you to calm down and not take action because of the peace process.

[Barak] No, I do not think the peace process is linked to that issue in any way. Whenever we are sure whenever there is a suitable action that meets the tests—first and foremost, the operational test, and second, the overall considerations of achieving the objective in Lebanon—we will implement it. We must remember that we do not have a peace accord or a peace process in Lebanon. In the end, our aim is to defend the northern settlements. [end recording]

Egyptian President on 'Shallowness' of Israel

[untitled] [illegible text] [illegible] in Hebrew 11 Dec 96 p 4c

[Report by Yonah Tal]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shar' expresses sceptical words regarding Israel does does President Hafiz al-Asad." This is the impression Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's entourage received during its recent visit to Syria.

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem received a report from the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires yesterday regarding the impressions the Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials formed during the visit. The report says that al-Shar' angrily walked out of a working session but his staff were holding with the Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials after the latter made remarks he took to be supportive of Israel's stands.

At the same time, from the meeting between Mubarak and al-Asad, the Egyptian officials got the impression that the Syrian president is cautious and more open except Israel.

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Talks on al-'Aqabah-Eilat Cooperation Held

JN1612121594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian-Israeli al-'Aqabah-Eilat Committee convened in al-'Aqabah today.

On the Jordanian side, the meeting was led by Dr. Fayiz al-Khasawnah, head of al-'Aqabah Region Authority, and on the Israeli side by (Noah Klieuri), assistant to the Israeli defense minister. The meeting discussed organizing procedures between the cities of al-'Aqabah and Eilat in implementation of Article 23 of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

It was agreed that the Jordanian and Israeli sides will resume their talks during the first half of January to go ahead in implementing aspects of joint cooperation between al-'Aqabah and Eilat.

Jordan-Israeli Committees View Development Issues

JN1612125594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Report by correspondent Nimr Hijjawi al-'Adwan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Jordanian-Israeli joint commissions assigned with discussing ways of developing the Jordan Rift Valley resumed their meetings in Dayr 'Alla today.

[Begin Munzhir Haddan, head of Jordanian delegation, recording] Today's meeting focused on two issues. The first is water projects in the peace treaty, and the second is the issues of the Gulf of Aqaba and development issues there. It was agreed that these issues will be included in the development of the Jordan Rift Valley. As for the water projects in the peace treaty, talks dealt with the contribution the European Union [EU] intends to provide in the form of feasibility studies and designing of systems for water storage on the River Jordan, one of the diversion dams, probably a storage facility on the al-Yarmuk River, and a desalinization station for the saline water that flows into the River Jordan in order to protect the quality of water in the river and to produce fresh water of which Jordan will get 10 million cubic meters of drinkable water, according to the treaty. [end recording]

The EU's contribution comes in the form of a grant to finance economic feasibility studies for the water projects in the Jordan Valley. This was decided following His Highness Prince Hasan's recent meeting with the EC in Brussels. [passage omitted]

During the meeting on the Gulf of Aqaba to implement the articles of the peace treaty, discussions dealt with the joint development projects in the Gulf in the tourist, transportation, environment, and electricity linkage sectors. [passage omitted]

In implementation of Article 7 of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty on joint economic cooperation, the Jordanian-Israeli Joint Economic Committee held its first meeting and formed a subcommittee specialized in investments, trade exchange, and banks. [passage omitted]

Al-Majali Holds News Conference on Islamic Summit

JN1612111794 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said Jordan has no objection to a resolution on Jerusalem adopted by the Islamic summit, which ended in Casablanca last night. But the prime minister told the press that Jordan had expressed reservations about denial of Jordan's custody of religious holy shrines in Jerusalem. Dr. Al-Majali, who returned from Casablanca early today, said there were no political implications of Jordan's custody of holy shrines and that the day would come for the Palestinians to take over this role. The prime minister also told the reporters that other issues which figured high on the summit agenda were Middle East peace, terrorism, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other Islamic affairs.

He said his majesty the king's speech at the summit was received with satisfaction and that King Hassan of Morocco, chairman of the summit, had expressed his satisfaction with the clarity and frankness of the speech. The prime minister said that Jerusalem committee would meet in mid-January after Egypt joined its membership.

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Al-Hirawi Discusses Independence, Israel

NC3012094694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] During a meeting with a delegation representing the Federation of Arab News Agencies today, President Ilyas al-Hirawi affirmed that Lebanon wants to achieve a true and honorable peace and restore the land before any relationship with Israel. Nothing can be signed between Israel and any Arab state unless the people are convinced of this, he said.

NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY Director Rafiq Shalalah cited the president as saying that there will be no peace unless this peace is honorable and collective. Al-Hirawi thanked Arab states for assisting Lebanon, noting particularly Syrian assistance and security support for Lebanon.

The president highlighted the need to set up a common Arab market before the Middle Eastern market. He stressed the need for unity of views under the circumstances.

He concluded that Lebanon will not be the bridge that leaves Syria's flank unprotected under the current conditions. We will stand fast and face the same fate with Arab states, he said, adding: We will not act independently of the others.

On Opponents, Democracy

NC1512120994 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 1 Dec 94 p 5

[Remarks by President Ilyas al-Hirawi to AL-DIYAR's Chief Editor Charles Ayyub at the Presidential Palace in B'abda on 2 December]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is my responsibility to lead the country toward stability, prosperity, reconstruction, development, civilian peace, and national unity. All of Lebanon is one family. Yesterday, a delegation from the Khalifah clan led by Bishop Khalifah visited me. The delegation included Shiite, Maronite, and Sunni families. This proves that the Lebanese people are not divided into sects and religions. I was very happy because Bishop Khalifah, who was a fanatic Maronite in Australia, came at the head of a delegation from the Khalifah clan including all communities. Before this, a delegation from the Zoghayb clan consisting of Maronites, Sunnis, and others visited me. I am enthusiastic about national unity. When I ask you, Charles, about the kiosk, I mean the AL-DIYAR kiosk because I like the press and my heart is open to the media and to criticism. I want to see democracy in Lebanon strengthened for good but I am against personal innuendoes, rumors, and injuring people's dignity. I remember that when we handed General 'Awn over to the French, someone said that my son Roy was in prison in Paris and that I exchanged him with Gen. 'Awn.

How can we deal with rumors of this kind? How can some people level such kind of accusations. In fact, Rafiq al-Hariri is right to defend his dignity and submit his resignation because every day he hears from three or four prost....s [prostitutes] insults and accusations. The words he said before the Arab Cultural Club were correct. It seems that he "vented his anger" after remaining silent for a long time. In fact, every day they tell us that Rafiq al-Hariri is swallowing everything. I tell them that I, Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the Republic, do not allow anyone to swallow the country. Can Rafiq al-Hariri swallow the airport, the port, the electricity company, and the autostrada? Matters are being blown out of all proportion. The government is working within the framework of the law and Constitution. The Chamber of Deputies watches the government and the ministers attend the chamber's meetings. Everything is taking place in the open and nothing takes place in secret.

Yesterday it was decided to increase the wages of workers and employees. This increase will cost the Lebanese treasury 300 billion pounds. Where will we get this sum of money to pay wages? Either the state will borrow to carry out projects that will accelerate economic developments and consequently the state budget will receive additional revenues from which we will pay these wages or the dollar price will rise and things will develop as they did during the governments of [former] Prime Ministers Salim al-Hoss and 'Umar Karami.

Take, for example, the Arab motorway project from the port of Beirut to al-Masna'. Without this motorway we cannot transport goods quickly from the Syrian-Lebanese border to the port. Consequently, Beirut port will become a port for fishermen and will lose its importance. Without new power stations and new telephone networks, Lebanon cannot play its role in the region. A [political] settlement might come after two or three years. In any case, shouldn't we build a Lebanon with a strong economy, industry, and trade to compete with Israel, which wants to swallow the region? Israel is preparing everything to secure its economic control. If the state does not want to play its role fully in this sphere, it is better to give these projects to private companies provided that these companies do not control the strategies of the projects but distributes their products to the citizens. The state will sponsor, watch, and guide these companies. The rumormongers are obstructing development and reconstruction just because they failed in the past when they were in power. This is impermissible.

I laughed a lot two days ago when I read a statement by Deputy Elie Skaf in the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH. He said he wants to see in power those who will fill the treasury with money, not those who will line their own pockets. In fact, "Monsieur" Skaf starts slogans and does not implement them. He is assisted by Deputy Speaker "Monsieur" al-Firzli and "Monsieur" Khalil al-Hirawi. We must not forget that Elie al-Firzli's coarse voice does not mean that he utters the truth. The three are collaborating to pass a law exempting inheritance from taxation and so that "Monsieur" Skaf's inheritance will be included in the 1991 exemption. Thus, the

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state will lose huge sums of money estimated at $25 million dollars. "Monsieur" Skaf's house alone in al-Yarzah is worth at least $18 million. Moreover, he owns thousands of donums of lands in Hawsh al-Umara', 'Ammiq, Western al-Biqa', and other areas.

Does Deputy Elie Skaf want to fill the treasury with funds or does he want to line his own pockets? Does Deputy Speaker "Monsieur" al-Firzli want a state of institutions or does he just say this and work for a farm state?

I have worked very hard for five years so that Lebanon will become strong and secure and so that it will have its own institutions. What have the opponents done?

[Former] Speaker Husayn al-Husayni bought 4,000 donums—4 million square meters—from Farid al-Hirawi in Hadath Ba'labakk. The square meter there is worth at least $2, although the actual price in some cases is $5. With a simple arithmetical calculation, we find out that the price of the land is at least $8 million. What did "Monsieur" al-Husayni do? He registered the price of the land as 500 million pounds, that is, $300,000. Hence, the treasury lost a great deal from the registration of the land: not less than $500,000. We further ask: Where did [former] Speaker Husayn al-Husayni get this huge amount of money? Did he get it from his business activity as a lawyer, from hard work, or from the revenue of land cultivation in al-Biqa'? In any case, the people alone know the answer.

As for [former] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, who speaks about the garden of the republican palace and its expenses and wants to stage a wide-scale strike to protest these expenses, he bought an apartment in al-Ramlah al-Bayda' [in Beirut] for $700,000 and registered it in his wife's name for $6,000 to avoid property tax. He declares himself to be clean and honest. Is it proper for a former prime minister to falsify his real estate assets to avoid taxes?

If this happened elsewhere in the world, in a backward or in an advanced country, the perpetrator of this act would go to prison. Nevertheless, "Monsieur" Karami lectures about honesty and integrity and objects to the landscaping of the palace's garden, which is after all the garden of the republican palace and not the garden of Ilyas al-Hirawi, who is now in B'abda but who will return to his home tomorrow.

Also regarding [former] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, when we made the decision to send the Army to Sidon, "Monsieur" Karami fled to Tripoli. He did not attend the cabinet meeting and did not shoulder the responsibility of sending the Army to the capital of the south. When the step was successful, he returned from Tripoli to Beirut to reprove us and naturally to take credit for the step following its success.

As for [former] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, he evaded responsibility when the state decided to end the mutiny of Gen. 'Awn. I made the decision alone while the indecisive man who never made a decision in his whole life evaded responsibility and failed to take action to end the mutiny of Gen. Michel 'Awn.

Let us discuss the Puma [helicopter] deal. An officer, pilot Darwish Hubayqah, told then President Amin al-Jumayyil that the helicopter that was transporting him was Romanian-made and not French-made. Yet, Amin al-Jumayyil kept quiet about this scandal. Is this permissible?

Is it permissible for a parliamentary investigation committee that looked into this issue to acquit the main suspect in this scandal?

In fact, I have suspicions regarding Elie al-Firzli's visit to Paris and his activity there. Why did he meet with Sami Marun? It seems that Sami Marun fixed Elie al-Firzli financially and then took him to a meeting with [former] President Amin al-Jumayyil. At that meeting, "Monsieur" al-Firzli decided that the report should acquit Amin al-Jumayil and Sami Marun because the matter was fixed. However, Elie al-Firzli, Khalil al-Hirawi, and Na'ilah Mu'awwad lost face at the parliamentary session at which Amin al-Jumayyil was held accountable because Elie al-Firzli could not fulfill his promise. In any case, I did not attend the session but some deputies informed me of what happened. Deputies Salim Sa'adah and Ghassan Matar even told Elie al-Firzli: Shall we understand from your talk that Ilyas al-Hirawi bought the Pumas and not Amin al-Jumayyil?

I have also read and heard that Elie al-Firzli keeps saying: We have sacrificed martyrs and blood for Lebanon's sake.

Does someone who was with the Israelis in Western al-Biqa' have the right to speak about the Puma and martyrs? Elie al-Firzli remained in Western al-Biqa' under Israeli occupation and met and sat with the Israelis. He used to say that he was doing this and was collaborating with the Israelis in the interest of the Lebanese citizens. I was then the minister of public works. When I visited Beirut Airport, Israeli officers came to shake hands with me. I refused. An Israeli officer told airport director Edmond Ghusn: Your minister is very rude and does not know etiquette. There were those who spoke about martyrs and blood while he was in the lap of the Israelis. He speaks about honesty and integrity while he accepts deals with Sami Marun and Amin al-Jumayyil. There are those who speak about the state of institutions instead of a farm state while he amends laws so that the son of Skaf [Elie Skaf] will not pay the taxes due to the state treasury.

In any case, I became furious at the cabinet meeting and told them that Amin al-Jumayyil should not be absolved of any responsibility. In fact, the majority of the deputies shared my view and voted in favor of holding al-Jumayyil accountable. If we had depended on "Monsieur" al-Firzli and his coarse voice, Sami Marun and

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Amin al-Jumayyil would have become heroes, thanks to what happened during al-Firzli's visit to Paris.

As for the issue of Deputy Yahya Shamas, I asked the minister of justice to refer it to the Chamber of Deputies to revoke Shamas' parliamentary immunity. One day Minister of Justice Bahij Tabbarah came to me and said that the chief public prosecutor had sent him a file containing accusations against Deputy Shamas and requesting that his immunity be lifted. I asked that the file be referred to the Chamber of Deputies. This happened. In fact, during the most recent cabinet meeting, I submitted a question to Minister of Justice Bahij Tabbarah before all the ministers. I asked him: Who asked you to refer Deputy Shamas' file to the Chamber of Deputies so that it would revoke his immunity? He answered me: Your excellency. I told him: I have received my rights.

In fact, I want everything to be revealed before the courts. I am not afraid of anything. If my son Roy violated the law in any way, "let 700 shoes fall over his head." If he did not violate the law, he has already filed a libel suit against Deputy Shamas. The court will give everyone their rights. If I was afraid of anything and wanted to hush up the subject, I could have easily told the minister of justice to shelve the file because we do not want big shakeups in the country.

No matter what, the country is facing a major event, namely the resignation of Prime Minister al-Hariri. I will phone him soon and inform him that I support him and reject his resignation. I will tell him not to put it in writing and send it to me because I will reject it. I will tell him: Damn it, are you happy that you have resigned and left me with a great burden?

Last week I exerted great efforts to get Speaker Birri and Prime Minister al-Hariri together so we could overcome the crisis. We were able to transcend several problems. However, the crisis exploded in the last cabinet meeting. I tried hard to persuade Prime Minister al-Hariri to go back on his resignation but he was not convinced. Nevertheless, I persuaded him to complete the session and we finished 40 items in 35 minutes. After the session, I tried in vain to persuade him to go back on his resignation but he insisted on resigning. We are now trying to arrange matters but Speaker Birri has gone to al-Musaylih [where he resides] as if nothing has happened. It seems that Speaker Birri is turning a deaf ear while Prime Minister al-Hariri has vented his anger in his speech. Matters are now awaiting a certain solution.

Some are waiting for a solution from Damascus. In fact, I am ashamed of the many differences among the Lebanese who go to Damascus to discuss them. We now disagree on the appointment of a doorman and go to Damascus to submit the problems to the brothers as if they do not have problems, such as the Middle East negotiations, which is a very important topic.

They raised a hue and cry when I said that we had not reached the age of maturity. In fact, do these internal differences within the government mean that we have reached the age of maturity and that we are patriots to the full in serving the public interest? No, all practices indicate that we have not reached the age of maturity.

They talk a lot about extending and sometimes shortening my term in office. I have told everyone that I do not want to hear about this subject because I will complete my constitutional term to the last day. As for extending my term in office, you will hear my view on this subject after one and a half months. In any case, it is premature to discuss this subject.

Al-Hariri Undergoes Medical Tests in Paris

NC1612130494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has undergone medical tests at the American Hospital in Paris. The results were good.

According to a statement issued by al-Hariri's office, he is due to return to Beirut via Damascus next Sunday [18 December].

Israeli Military Movements, Reinforcements in South

NC1512070394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from south Lebanon this morning indicate that Israeli military movements and reinforcements inside the occupied border zone are continuing. Israeli military movements were yesterday monitored in the Marj 'Uyun area, where 26 vehicles took up position between 'Aytarun and Blida.

AFP quoted Israeli military sources in occupied Jerusalem as saying that the Israeli army has been put on maximum alert on the border with Lebanon in anticipation of further Resistance attacks.

Saudi Embassy Denies 'Misleading' Remarks

NC1412170294 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 10 Dec 94 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-SAFIR received a letter yesterday from the Saudi Embassy in Beirut commenting on the interview published yesterday in AL-SAFIR with Dr. Muhammad al-Mas'ari, the official spokesman for the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia, who is present in London. The following is the verbatim text of the letter of the Media Office of the Saudi embassy:

Greetings

In your issue number 6955 dated 9 December 1994 you published an interview with a certain Muhammad al-Mas'ari in which he talked about conditions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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The Media Office at the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Beirut categorically denies all the misleading statements contained in this interview, which have no foundation except in the interviewee's imagination. The Media Office would like to affirm that the situation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as everyone knows, is firm, stable, and cannot be shaken by such outrageous allegations.

Accordingly, kindly publish this comment on the same page on which the aforesaid interview was published, in accordance with the provisions of the Publications Law.

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Qaddah Chairs Meeting of Party Leaders, Governors

JN1112110594 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 6 Nov 94 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus (SANA)—Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, yesterday morning presided over a meeting of comrade party branch secretaries and provincial governors. The meeting was attended by comrade Vice President 'Abd-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al- Zu'bi, comrade members of the Regional Command, the two deputy prime ministers for economic affairs and services, some comrade ministers, comrade party branch secretaries, governors, chairman of the Control and Inspection Committee, presidents of popular organizations and professional unions, presidents of universities, chairman of the Central Commission for Control and Inspection, and the directors of media institutions. [passage omitted].

The comrade assistant regional secretary began the meeting by conveying to the conferees the greetings and affection of the party secretary general, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. The comrade branch secretaries then reviewed conditions on the organizational, popular, professional, and factional levels. Their reviews and comments reflected the progress which has been achieved in the internal life of the party, the expansion of the party base, and the development of work formulas in all popular fields. The comrade secretaries' comments centered in particular on the growing role of the Progressive National Front branches and the strengthening of national unity behind the wise and courageous leadership of the party secretary general, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad.

The governors also reviewed economic and services conditions in their governorates. Their comments reflected the great attention which is being given to the daily life of the citizens and the improvement which has occurred in the execution of productive and services projects. The comrade governors referred to the government's role in ensuring the requirements and capabilities which have helped and are helping in raising the standard of services which are being rendered to the citizens and bolstering Syria's steadfastness in face of all challenges.

The comrade party branch secretaries and governors resumed their meeting in the evening under comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the party. [passage omitted]

The comrade party secretaries reviewed party activities within their exclusive fields, noting the continuous progress in adhering to our party's struggle course. They emphasized the leading role of the popular organizations, professional unions, and Progressive National Front branches in strengthening national unity under the policy of political pluralism, as founded by the comrade party secretary general, leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad.

The governors spoke about the pogress of work on economic, productive, services, and land reclamation projects, building of dams, and so forth.

In their comments, the comrades referred to the importance which is being attached to these projects and to the followup and support which is given by party and government leaderships in this regard. The speakers also referred to the process of construction and , development which is being witnessed in all fields of life. They spoke about some difficulties and obstacles and made adequate proposals on how to overcome them in order to go ahead with the process of developing and building the society of stability and progress which is being witnessed by Syria under the wise and courageous leadership of the party secretary general, leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad.

Paper Urges Introduction of Credit Cards

JN1512200394 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 10 Nov 94 p 8

["Frankly Speaking column by "Jihad": "Credit Cards"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I do not know why officials in charge of our currency affairs persist in viewing a decision to adopt credit cards in Syrian pounds as a reckless and risky act with unforeseen consequences and results.

I doubt if there is another country in the world where people deal in cash money as much as we do in Syria. Actually, and also regrettably, the public do not deal in checks except in very limited cases. This is at a time when the money circulating in people's hands is increasing, the currency itself is wearing out, and the banks are confused about what to do with the money they have.

True, a problem is tackled by tackling its causes, but it is also certain that there is an urgent need to take certain steps in order to lessen the burden on those who deal in money, especially those who are compelled by the nature of their work to carry money from one place to another.

Just observe as you go into one of our banks how clients crowd before cash counters in a scene reminiscent of the days of the long queues outside consumer societies.

Here we are once again face to face with a problem that requires handling. If we do not take action now to find the causes and the solutions, the problem is bound to get more complex.

What is required of us all is to start studying the real reasons preventing us from dealing with currency in other ways.

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The initiative in getting the necessary approvals for printing 1,000 pound banknotes is a major step, but is it adequate?

I believe that the most crucial and essential issue now is to tackle the subject through discussion and debate in order to give encouragement to those who can take the initiative, make the decision, and find the solution.

Briefly, it is time we thought about checks, credit cards, and such other means of payment before it is too late.

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Afghanistan

Mojahedin Clear Lawlash District of Dostam Militia

LD1512212194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Absolute peace and security has been restored in Lawlash District and other villages and hamlets around Lawlash which have recently been cleared of the mercenary militias by the bravery of the 24th Jihadi Infantry Division. The people are now engaged in their daily affairs in a peaceful and calm atmosphere.

The reporter of the radio-television's military program who has recently returned to Kabul after visiting the above district and other provinces in the south-western zone, reports:

As soon as the brave mojahedin of Faryab, with the help of local people, began clearing Lawlash District, Bar Ghar, Jeji, Koh-e Tur, Cheshma-e Sangi, and dozens other localities of the murdering and plundering Dostam's militias, the people resumed their peaceful life with confidence and expressed their support for the Islamic State of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

The Dostam militia had plundered all property, goods and animals in the above district and other surrounding villages and have turned the areas into waste land. The local people left their houses owing to the atrocities committed by the militia. After the liberation of the district and other villages, the local people have now returned to their houses and more are still coming. The people of Lawlash are suffering from various pains and difficulties. Some assistance has already been extended to the people by the mojahedin of the division and leadership of the Islamic State, but this assistance is not sufficient. The people are asking for more assistance and help in this cold winter. [passage omitted]

Brigadier General Mowlana Mohammad Sarwar Abqar, the commander of 24th Infantry Division, one of the jihad's committed and honest commanders, who has always looked after the welfare of the mojahedin, in his interview with the correspondent of the radio-television mobile unit, said:

[Begin Abqar recording, in Dari] You can see now that we conquered Lawlash some 16 or 17 days ago. We took control from them [Dostam militia]. When we conquered Lawlash—this vast area which extends from Sar-e Pol to Badghis and Ghowr provinces, bordering three provinces—they then launched a massive attack. With all the power and participation of their famous commanders, such as Raof Sowri, Rais Abdorrahman, who was governor of Faryab, Qari Mohammad Alam Rasekh [Rasekh means honest]—we do not regard him as Rasekh but a corrupt man—'Abdollah Pahlawan from Almar and Aman Pahlawan Dahandara'i, together with some other famous commanders, as well as Kabir who is a nephew of Yasin Pahlawan who was also commanding the invasion against us, they launched a massive attack. With the blessing of God and bravery of our devout mojahedin and the honourable jihadi commanders, the enemy strength was broken. According to an accurate report I have received today from the city of Maymana, they have left behind 50 dead and 75 injured.

From the military point of view, they have lost the ability to resist against the mojahedin. They are now defeated. Believe me, during their massive invasion, they launched 25 separate attacks within two nights. With the help of God they could not manage to take control of even an inch of land from us, despite launching 25 separate attacks. On the contrary, we launched a fighting attack and within half an hour we conquered the most important and strong of their positions—Ghonchak—as you can see it now. Trust me, if one is a good believer and really wants to fight and defend this place, 10,000 fighters cannot overrun this position. We are committed believers and mojahed and Muslim, while they are infidels and militiamen. They could not resist and within half an hour we conquered this strong position.

In the second night we initiated the attack and we overran eight trenches along that direction, can you see?. We overran another nine toward this direction. With the blessing of God, we have gained control of these places within a short time. They have been trying for the last eight days to advance, but, thanks to God, they did not manage to seize even one position. May praise be to God, they have now lost the ability. I am confident that after conquering the Lawlash District and some other villages as you can see, the other locality, called Bander, now being surrounded by the mojahedin, will be conquered within a short period. [end recording]

Bangladesh

Prime Minister Gives Briefing on ICO Summit

BK1612042594 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman returned home last night after attending the Seventh ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] Summit in the Moroccan city of Casablanca. Talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport, Begum Zia said the summit has been highly successful. She said Bangladesh played a constructive and active role at the summit. The prime minister said that while she chaired the full session of the summit she allowed Bosnia to attend it as an observer.

At the summit, Begum Zia said, she called for identifying the challenges before Muslim ummah [community] and for collectively facing them. The prime minister said she also called for ending internal strifes within the Muslim ummah and overcoming the problem of poverty and for united efforts to keep the traditions of (?Islam). The

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prime minister explained Bangladesh's initiatives in SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] activities and informed the summit about the Ganges water sharing problem with India and its adverse impact on the economy and ecology of Bangladesh and about the importance of an early completion of repatriation of Myanmar [Burmese] refugees from Bangladesh.

Begum Zia said she called for adoption of an effective and integrated action program by the ICO so that it could face the challenges before the Muslim ummah in the coming days. She called upon the ICO countries to establish an Islamic common market as proposed by Shahid [martyr] President Ziaur Rahman to further increase the economic cooperation among the ICO countries.

The prime minister had discussions with the leaders of the ICO countries on bilateral as well as on ICO and international matters of common interest. She had meetings with, among others, Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, the amir of Kuwait, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Bosnia's Alija Izetbegovic, and Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. As the vice chairperson of the ICO, Begum Zia said Bangladesh is committed to play an active and constructive role in the coming days for the greater good of the Islamic ummah.

Killing of UN Troops in Bosnia Condemned

BK1412134494 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh has seriously taken up with the UN Security Council the issue of the killing of five Bangladeshi UN peacekeepers in the Bihac area of Bosnia. It is expected that the Security Council will soon hold a meeting to discuss the issue of the large-scale and motivated attacks launched by the Bosnian Serbs and their supporters on besieged UN peacekeeping forces. A press release issued by the Foreign Ministry in Dhaka today said that the permanent representative of Bangladesh in New York has established contact with the (?main group) in New York. As a result, they held an emergency meeting with the members of the Security Council and emphasized the need to take immediate remedial measures.

In Dhaka, Acting Foreign Secretary Mohiuddin Ahmad called on the Russian ambassador to Bangladesh and conveyed to him the grave concern of the Bangladesh government over the killing of Bangladeshi peacekeepers. The ambassador was asked to convey to his government the request of the Bangladesh Government to do everything possible to ensure the security of the UN peacekeeping force in Bosnia.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman has expressed deep sorrow and shock over the killing of the Bangladeshi soldier, Sepoy Mohammad Ismail Hossain. In a statement issued in Casablanca today, she severely condemned Serb attacks on Bangladeshi soldiers in Bosnia.

Prime Minister Confers With Commander in Bosnia

BK1512021194 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman talked to the battalion commander of the Bangladeshi contingent at Bihac, Colonel Salim Akbar, over telephone from Casablanca yesterday. She inquired about the overall situation of the contingent in Bihac. She also inquired about the treatment of the soldiers who were injured by the Serb attacks on Monday [12 December] last. Col. Salim apprised the prime minister of the overall situation and the medical treatment of the injured Bangladeshi soldiers there. The prime minister prayed for the early recovery of the injured soldiers.

Meanwhile, the UN special envoy, Yasushi Akashi, has expressed deep shock at the death of Sepoy [soldier] Mohammad Ismail Hossain in Bihac. In a letter to Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman, the UN envoy also conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family. Mr. Akashi appreciated the courageous role of the Bangladeshi soldiers in the peacekeeping process in Bihac despite odds. The envoy said the contribution of Bangladeshi soldiers will be remembered and the UN will remain grateful to the Bangladeshi peacekeepers in the UN forces.

India

Congress-I Suggests 'Reorienting' Various Plans

BK1612034194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress-I Working Committee [CWC-I] has called for reorienting various existing schemes to give direct benefit to the people. On the second day of its deliberations in New Delhi last night, the CWC-I considered the proposals submitted by the informal groups set up on Wednesday [14 December]. Briefing newsmen, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said the CWC-I has decided that the government should examine the financial and administrative implications of these proposals.

The meeting, which lasted three hours, was of the view that the thrust of the programs should be on the reorientation of various existing schemes without incurring additional financial burden. Mr. Gadgil said once the programs are finalized, these will be included in the party's central and state manifestos. He said the CWC-I will meet again on Tuesday to finalize the party's socio-economic program for the people of the five states going to the polls in February. It will also take a final view on the proposals regarding the problems faced by the minorities. Replying to questions, the spokesman said most of the members present expressed their views at the meeting last night.

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Commentary Views February State Elections Issues

BK[illegible] Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0247 GMT 9 Dec 94

[Commentary by Shastri Ramachandran]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The elections to the assemblies in the five states of Gujarat, Bihar, Maharashtra, Orissa, and Arunachal Pradesh were announced by the Election Commission promised to be an interesting and an exciting to suppose as the elections that have just been held in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Though elections to these assemblies were certain in the first quarter of 1995, the commission's decision to schedule them in February instead of March as widely expected has come as a surprise. This means that all political parties will have much less time for electioneering than they had assumed.

The issues will no doubt be different than the ones in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Though, the Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has sought to make economic liberalisation the main issue, the campaign was dominated by local issues. In the coming elections, economic liberalisation, continuity, and stability are found to be the three planks on which the Congress-I Party will base its campaign. This cannot, however, be uniformly canvassed in all the five states because the political climate and issues vary from state to state. Economic liberalisation may serve as a main common campaign pitch in all the five states, but stability cannot be made an issue in Bihar and Orissa just as the plea for continuity will have to be restricted to Maharashtra and Gujarat. The Janata Dal ministries in Bihar and Orissa have provided stability. This is the first time that a non-Congress-I party, which ruled at the center, has completed its full term of office in these states without a change of chief ministers. The case for continuity can be canvassed only in Maharashtra and Gujarat. Arunachal Pradesh is in a category by itself and shares no common political thread with any of the other four states going to the polls in the same month. This explains why counting of votes in Arunachal Pradesh will be done four days after voting on 8 February. In the other four states, though voting begins on 8 February, it has been staggered in a manner so as to be completed only on the 28th February in Bihar with the counting slated to start on 4 March.

A notable feature of these elections is that they will be the first to be conducted on the basis of the photo identity cards that the Election Commission has insisted on as a condition for holding polls after [illegible] end of next month.

Government Rules Out Foreign Monitors in Election

BK[illegible] Delhi PTI [illegible] 0 [illegible] in English 9 Dec 94 p 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Dec. 9 (PTI) The government today ruled out any role for an external agency in the conduct of elections in Jammu and Kashmir and said the Election Commission would ensure that the polls were free and fair.

To a question by Mr.S. S. Ahluwalia if the demand of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference for elections to be held under the UN auspices would be conveyed to Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi said under the Constitution and the law there were well-established procedures and regulations for holding elections in J and K.

Mr Chaturvedi, said in a written reply to Rajya Sabha that these elections would be held under the supervision of the Election Commission which had the authority to ensure that the elections were free and fair Mr Chaturvedi said.

"Under these circumstances, we do not visualise any role for any external agency," Mr Chaturvedi said.

It was the government's aim to hold elections in the State as early as possible and efforts were on to create conditions in which this could be brought about, Mr Chaturvedi said.

The summary revision of electoral rolls in the State is being conducted by the State Government as directed by the Election Commission, he said.

The Election Commission has also given direction to the J and K Government to ensure delimitation process be added. The approved plan outlay for J & K for 1994-95 was Rs 10 crore, but in view of the difficult financial problems of the State the Centre [federal government] in October 1994 released an additional special plan assistance of Rs 111 crore he said.

[illegible] on Success Behind Congress-I 'Rout'

BK[illegible] Delhi [illegible] in Hindi 12 Dec 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Rivers Away"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last November, the Congress, though appearing defeated with a southern tinge, was returned to power in Himachal and Madhya Pradesh by the Hindi-belt voters, restoring its confidence. Now that same party has been blown away by a storm in the very southern states that used to provide its base of power in the federal government. Not only in Andhra and Karnataka but also in Sikkim, the Congress fared so badly this year that its above ending any claim to form the government, it failed to garner enough strength even to become the main party in opposition. The only exception to the Congress' overall miserable performance is in Goa, though even there it is not clear which party would form a government. Although prior to the elections the anti-Congress wave was heard, nobody ever imagined such a massive rout. The stunning effect of this defeat is quite natural for the Congress members, as barely two and one-half months from now five more states are scheduled to go to the polls, and in none of these states does

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the Congress expect a favorable outcome. These impending assembly elections give me little time to the Congress to summon its residual strength and to restore its lost confidence. Before the results of the recent elections, the experts had begun to express doubts about the continuance of Narasimha Rao's supremacy in the Congress if his party lost in Andhra and Karnataka. Rao has come too expressed to preventing this danger by all possible means. It was due to this fear that before [illegible] Rao took up the reigns of the campaign. No explanations had begun to surface that even if the Congress lost elections in these states, it would not be considered any adverse comment by the voters on Mr. Narasimha Rao's leadership. Still, from a variety of Congress foes the same hurdle is being repeated and will continue to be repeated. Although this strategy of Mr. Rao's camp will not keep his rivals quiet, the losses that the defeat has inflicted upon their morale will unleash such an overruling despair over the entire party—especially in the face of the next phase of the assembly elections—that it is unlikely to put any strong pressure on Mr. Rao, no matter what he might do.

There could be many reasons for the massive woes of the Congress. The growing economic hardships of the masses despite much vaunted economic reforms and the poor administration of the Congress governments in the states may be counted as the chief reasons for the party's debacle. The skyrocketing inflation and speedily growing unemployment were found to add to the discomfiture of the people. When these maladies combined with the inefficient state administration, rampant corruption, and the internal bickering in the party, the voters became disillusioned. All these factors could explain an ordinary defeat of the Congress, but not the total rout it faced in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. In all the three states there were also different local factors responsible for the party's defeat. Still, there is a common undercurrent. The people are progressively losing their confidence in the Congress. The growing fear that the Congress earlier suffered in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh appears also to be in store for it in these southern states and Orissa. In these states, the general message of the voters pulled in to have has phenomenal an insight that it would have to make massive efforts to regain even its earlier position in Karnataka, the Dharamsa Janata Party (BJP) could get the opportunity to emerge as the second biggest party. The Andhra unit of the Congress is much more severe than the situation the party faced when Nandamuri Tarak Rao gained power for the first time in 1983. In Orissa, however, it can be said that the party had started losing its base since the rule of Nandamuri Bhandari. Hence, the party's defeat there is not so shocking. These election results might appear quite discouraging to the Congress, but they do represent a happy message for democracy, and that is that our people have awakened enough to judge the efficiency of the governments purely on merits.

[illegible] Rules Out Shifting 'Vital Units'

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in English 0 [illegible] p 6

[TEXT] Transcribed Text] [illegible]—Indian Space Research Organization [ISRO] chairman Dr. K. Kasturi Rangan on Friday 4 [illegible] ruled out shifting of any vital units of ISRO from Thiruvananthapuram to the wake of the spy scandal.

Asked at a press conference if any of the ISRO units would be shifted as a result of the alleged leakage of information from one of the units, Dr Kasturi Rangan said "any access to an emphatic no".

On whether the cryogenic project would be frozen as the two scientists arrested were connected with it, he said there was no question of freezing it. The government had attached the highest significance to it.

In fact, the ISRO wanted to keep its promise of giving the country an indigenous cryogenic upper stage by 1999, he added.

Dr Kasturi Rangan said though the reports had stated that the scandal could lead to slagging of the morale in the ISRO, after his interaction with hundreds of people in the organisation he was convinced that there was no such problem.

"The people are really charged and I should say that the best way to satisfy all queries is to prepare the [illegible] launch to inspire it would satisfy that no more questions," he said.

[illegible] and [illegible] satellites would be useful for mobile communication, especially in the transport sector.

On each the [illegible] would be a one generation, one class of satellites having capability for remote-sensing data of resolutions better than ten metres. "It will be the best satellite ever put anywhere in the world," he said.

[illegible] Urges Re-Unionising Force [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] in English 0 the Hindu p 6

[Article by [illegible]]

[TEXT] Transcribed Text] [illegible] has [illegible]'s lament about the partisan character of the Indian Navy which he voiced in a chat with pressmen last week, would have been treated as a privileged exercise if he were to adopt more out-of-place.

Dressing up the navy's budget for the Navy, the naval chief asked how best concentration needs [illegible] of the Navy to acquire at least one new type and one overall carrier and other air defence ships, two of which should [illegible] making airborne surveillance. He can suppose two of these and capabilities of the shipyards.

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[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

[illegible]

[illegible] Russia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates has considerably increased since the oil war. In 1993 alone, America has signed a contract with Kuwait for the sale of [illegible] tanks and [illegible] worth $2 billion. This, however, does not include earlier contracts which were signed between the two countries following their [illegible] security treaty of 1991.

Continuation of past military exercises in the Persian Gulf region reveals some of the behind-the-scene explosive, and it is regrettable that Kuwaiti officials do not have such civilian exercise.

[illegible] on Christopher's 'Consecutive' Visits

[illegible] Tehran [illegible] in Persian 7 Dec 94 p [illegible]

[Commentary by Hasan Fathi: "Christopher in the Middle East"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has once again left for a trip to the Middle East in order to exchange views at close quarters with the heads of Syria and Israel regarding the peace process between the Arabs and the Zionists.

The latest visit by Christopher to the Middle East, which comes in the wake of President Clinton's visit to the region, indicates the White House's efforts to bring the views of Damascus and Tel Aviv closer together to pave the way for signing a peace accord between them at least one [illegible].

From the day the peace talks began in the Middle East amid the utter woe of the Arab countries and the PLO have joined in this trend, the United States has constantly sought to exert pressure on the Arabs to accept the peace and to force them to come to the negotiating table in support of Israel.

The first person to enter into an overt peace with the Zionists and to open up his country's borders to them was Anwar al-Sadat, the former Egyptian president who was interpreted by the Arabs. However, even before him, some of the Arab leads held covert talks with the Zionists and grasped hands with them, namely the late Jordanian King Hasan 'Abdallah, grandfather of King Husayn, who was assassinated by a young Palestinian revolutionary in the courtyard of the al-Aqsa Mosque.

Since al-Sadat signed the Camp David accord up to the present, other many of the Arab heads of state have joined this process. Developments have taken place in the Arab world that indicate a turnaround in viewpoints in favor of the United States and Israel.

The United States has for [illegible] the most important ally of the Zionists so far and has played a considerable role in the formation of Israel and in bolstering its regime in the face of its Arab and Palestinian neighbors. However, in the years since the inception of Israel, the United States and its allies [illegible] have not had much success in establishing Israel's position in the Arab Middle East region. The Arab-Israel wars in 1948, 1967, and 1973 exposed the fact that the Zionists and their Arab neighbors have not been able to reach an agreement on amicable coexistence.

The United States and other Western countries have made a great effort during these years to bring the viewpoints of the two sides closer together, but the ever-hot-and-grave situation could not be transformed into a permanent peace. The Palestinians and Arabs [illegible] the withdrawal of the Zionists from the occupied territories and are not prepared to back down from that stance. However, circumstances gradually changed and, with the PLO voyaging on its former stance, the conservative Arab stance joined in this trend.

In this regard, only Syria and Lebanon have persisted in their stand and demand the withdrawal of Israel from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. Even though the Zionists have expressed their concurrence with this issue, the real problem is the lack of agreement on a formula for this withdrawal. The consecutive visits by Christopher to the Middle East were made for talks with the heads of Syria, Lebanon, and Israel and will continue until all the regional Arabs reach an accord with the Zionists.

The main objective of the United States is to extricate Israel from its isolation and to open the door to the Arab countries for this regime's products.

Daily Criticizes U.S. Support for Chechnya Friend

[illegible] Tehran [illegible] in English 0115 GMT 07 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA—A morning daily Thursday [11 December] editorialized on recent developments in Chechnya saying that the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has declared his support for Russian President Boris Yeltsin who has done "what he had to do."

The recent war between Russia and the U.S. at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), held recently in Budapest, should have debunked the myth of U.S.-Russia friendship, the English-language "[illegible]" wrote.

"When Christopher hails to see in a group of Muslims up in arms", the daily commented adding that for him a good Muslim is a meek Muslim.

The U.S. summary of case can [illegible], especially a resilient and uncompromising type, as a threat to the U.S. agenda to reign supreme in the world, is commonsense.

"Christopher seems to forget that the very act of sending troops to Chechnya, a measure taken without the consent of the Russian parliament, proves that Russia under Yeltsin is far from democratic," stressed the paper.

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Only those who suffer from amnesia and cannot remember that Yeltsin was the one who ordered last year's shelling of the parliament, can call Russia a democratic society, it said.

"Rather than blaming the aggressor, Christopher has chosen to blame the aggressed", the article underlined.

Someone should remind Christopher that the people of Chechnya too did what "they had to do", as Christopher's forefathers did "what they had to do" when they made up their minds to fight the oppression of the British colonialists, it concluded.

Economic Agreement Reached With Poland

NC1513083694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of the sixth session of the joint Iranian-Polish economic commission, a memorandum of understanding was signed under which the two countries agreed to further expand their economic relations. In an interview with our correspondent upon his return from Warsaw yesterday, Commerce Minister Ali-e Tebiaq spoke about the important points on which the two countries have agreed.

[Begin Ali-e Tebiaq recording] The major points of the agreement are approximately three. The financial and banking problems between the two countries were solved, thank God, and beneficial agreements on future banking relations were reached. It was agreed that the Polish side place favorable preferential tariffs at the disposal of Iranian exporters.

We had some problems in relation with several flour mills and oil pressing units. These problems were solved and it was agreed that these plants be delivered. It was also agreed that joint cooperation in the production and export of machinery tools and cranes as well as in the field of sensor planes continue and be increased. We also agreed that the joint chambers of commerce of Iran and Poland be formed and established.

We think that, on the whole, Poland offers a very good market and their need for our products and prices are so favorable that our exporters should consider the Polish market as one of their targets. [end recording]

Mass Production of *Zulfiqar* Tank Begins

LD1613163194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mass production of the *Zulfiqar* tank began today. In an interview with our correspondent Brigadier General Dadfar, commander of the ground forces, said:

[Begin recording] [Dadfar] On the basis of a decree issued by his eminence the great leader [Khamenei's] concerning self-sufficiency in all spheres of the ground forces, the ground forces have made extensive efforts to build a tank for two and half years. Thanks to God, we can see now that these tanks are ready to be used. Our self-sufficiency jihad has now the ability to begin mass production of the tank and finalize it.

[Unidentified correspondent] Could you please tell us to what extent domestic sources and industries have been used in the mass production of these tanks?

[Dadfar] The manpower in general has been from the ground forces and no help has been received from any other sources. The experts are the experts of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran. But, assistance has been given in some parts of tanks, like all other factories which receive help from other sources. With help of God, we will try to make these fully through the self-sufficiency jihad in future. [end recording]

Major Microwave Center Opens to Link Big Cities

LD1613211094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A microwave project was inaugurated in Ardebil today. In the presence of First Vice President Hasan Habibi, a microwave project was inaugurated in Ardebil at noon today. The microwave center has 1,980 active channels; 30 billion rials was spent on the project.

Mr. Habibi, who arrived in Ardebil this morning, is heading a delegation on a three-day visit to the province. First, Mr. Habibi visited Ardebil's graveyard, where martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the Holy Defense [Iraq—Iran War] are buried, and paid his respect to them.

He then inaugurated the microwave project built for the Ardebil Communications Company. The microwave center plays a significant role in the expansion of communication between the Ardebil Province and other parts of the country and the world.

With the inauguration of the project, Ardebil Province is directly linked to the cities of Tehran, Qazvin, Karaj, Rasht, Bandar Anzali, Tabriz, Orumiyeh, Khoy, Hamedan, and Zanjan. A second phase of the project provides the possibility of linkage to Sanandaj, Kermanshah, Esfahan, and Miandoab.

The inauguration of the microwave center has the ultimate capacity to have 3,190 communication channels. The center also provides direct communication link between 16 communication centers in Ardebil Province.

Motion To Impeach Minister Making Debated

LD1613192294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The motion to impeach the mines and metals minister, which was raised in today's Majles session, was rejected.

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According to our correspondent's report, following a discussion on the impeachment of the mines and metals minister at today's open session of the Majles, voting took place a few minutes ago, and as a result Mr. Mahluji, once again, managed to receive a vote of confidence from the Majles with 160 votes in favor and 98 votes against.

In today's Majles session a number of deputies who were in favor of the impeachment of the minister spoke about their viewpoints and Mr. Mahluji answered their questions.

Envoy to Argentina Refutes Charges on Bomb Blast

LD1512163094 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Madrid, Dec. 15, IRNA—Iran's Cultural Liaison Office in Argentina, in a bid to clarify facts behind the last June bomb blast in Buenos Aires, has published a book titled "IRAN RESPONDS", it was announced in Argentina Thursday [15 December].

Iran's cultural attache in Argentina Mohsen Rabbani told IRNA Thursday that by taking into account the propaganda campaign launched by pro-Zionist mass media, Iran after thoroughly studying the event published the book to inform the Latin American people, Argentinians in particular, about the realities of the incident.

Following the bomb explosion in Buenos Aires Jewish Center on June 20, Zionist-influenced mass media launched propaganda campaign against Iran accusing it of involvement in the blast.

Rabbani added that the book has been well received by Argentinian public. He referred to the propaganda pressure in the early days of the incident. For instance, he added, all five television channels which are directly or indirectly run by the Zionists, without presenting any documented evidence, brought Iran under propaganda bombardment. They also broadcast interviews with the Zionist officials who accused Iran of involvement in the bomb blast.

The widely circulated "CLARIN DAILY", at the first week of the incident printed Iranian diplomats photographs accusing them of baseless charges.

All these attempts were made with the objectives of severing Tehran-Buenos Aires ties, Rabbani said.

He added that although the Iranian officials have responded to the allegations, the Argentinian people were awaiting a written response from Iran. The book contains interviews and speeches by the Iranian officials in this connection.

Caucasian Theologian Urges Emulation of Khamene'i

LD1512210794 Tehran IRNA in English 2023 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Dec. 15, IRNA—In a message to the leader of the Islamic revolution Grand Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the chief of the Religious Council of the Caucasian Peoples, Allahshakur Pashazadeh congratulated the acceptance of the office of "marja'iyat" [state of being a source of emulation] by the Grand Ayatollah Khamene'i, to the Muslims all over the world.

In the Persian and Azeri texts of the message published in the Baku weekly "SHAHRIYAR" today, Pashazadeh has condoled the sad departure of the late Grand Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Araki, to the 12th imam (a.s.) of the blessed household of the prophet (pbuh) and to the leader of the Islamic revolution.

In a ceremony last Friday [9 December] in Baku, at which the visiting Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri was present, Pashazadeh had announced his taqlid (followership) from the Grand Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. Pashazadeh also called on the Caucasian Muslims to follow the Grand Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

Media Coordination To 'Neutralize' Rumors Stressed

NC1612085694 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 12 Dec 94 pp 1-2

[Editorial: "Choose one: News or Rumor?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last week two totally different events took place that unfortunately had a very negative fallout because there was no correct reaction to them:

First, the building of the former national Majles in Baharestan Square was ravaged by a conflagration and part of it was destroyed. A delayed and brief report on this was disseminated by the media. Accordingly rumors spread swiftly all over the capital and when the real reason for the accident was announced its veracity was overshadowed by the extent of the rumors.

A few days after this incident the newspapers cited an official on the investigating team on the reasons for the blaze: It is not necessary that every correspondent or photographer should rush to the scene of an incident.

Second, in the week that saw the coldest days of the winter, gas supplies to most of the urban areas of Tehran were cut off.

The gas company initially displayed no official reaction, spawning all kinds of rumors—from the freezing of substandard pipes to unforeseen consumption requirements and the problem of maintaining stocks. Eventually, the public relations department of the gas company announced the real reasons for the stoppage.

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An assessment of these two incidents clearly indicates that the illogical stances assumed eclipsed the facts. The head of the investigating committee knows that speed is imperative, vital in the dissemination of news. Those who guide public opinion today with the assistance of their mass media are spending millions of dollars to have their reporters at the venue of any event immediately.

If a report is disseminated in a logical and timely manner it can neutralize all rumors. Otherwise it gets swamped among the plethora of rumors and reactions. Why did the national gas company wait for days to announce that the shortage of gas was due to the high level of consumption? Why did the gas company not issue a statement giving the reasons cited by its experts so that the issue would be clarified, instead of giving rise to speculation that the gas pipes had frozen?

A news strategy requires coordination among all the relevant institutions and officials countrywide. We should know that a news report is far better than a rumor, as it strengthens the bonds between the people and officials.

If correspondents do not reach the scene of an event in the early hours, those who have ulterior motives will spread rumors so that the foreign mass media may disseminate them to undermine the system. Will we ever make the choice that a news report is better than a rumor?

Pakistan

Bhutto Holds News Conference on ICO Summit

BK1612071894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that the unanimous adoption of the resolution and special declaration on Kashmir at the Seventh Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Summit has brought the Kashmir issue into the mainstream of international politics and given a boost to the liberation struggle. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this morning upon her return home from the Casablanca summit, she said that the summit's achievements have defeated India's attempts to project Kashmir as merely a local and bilateral issue.

The prime minister said the special declaration expressed grave concern over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and urged the immediate elimination of the misery faced by the Kashmiris so that a conducive atmosphere can be created for continuing meaningful talks on the issue.

The prime minister said this was the first time that leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference had effectively presented their viewpoint to the leaders of the ICO Contact Group and taken them into confidence about the situation in the occupied valley. The Kashmiris said [words indistinct] that they will not agree to anything short of the self-determination provided for by the UN resolutions.

Answering a question, the prime minister said there is a consensus throughout the entire nation and successive governments since 1985 have held identical stands on the Kashmir issue; the country's nuclear program; Pakistan-India and Pakistan-U.S. relations; and privatization, deregulation, and the free market economy.

Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, who accompanied the prime minister, expressed complete satisfaction with the adoption of the resolution on Kashmir. He said there was no difference of opinion among the 53 countries attending the summit.

Referring to the Karachi situation, Benazir Bhutto said the government is taking steps to improve it and to provide full protection for citizens. She said that some foreign powers are displeased with our foreign policy and are carrying out terrorism in the city. She said that Pakistan is not a cowardly country and will not bow to these powers. We will defend our unity and security at any cost.

On the talks with the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM], she said that the Sind Government has accepted nearly all of the MQM's 10 demands and added that it is ready to consider other legitimate demands.

In reply to another question, she said the government's doors are open to dialogue with the opposition on national issues. First, she said, talks will be held on restoring women's seats in the legislative assemblies. This will be followed by talks on the expansion of the National Assembly either on the basis of proportional representation or direct elections and on constitutional matters such the issue of senators involved in litigation and the privileges of the National Assembly members. The prime minister said the government desires better relations with the opposition so as to promote Pakistan's interests and develop the two-party system.

Radar Control Center Commissioned at Airport

BK1512092094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A modern radar area control center was commissioned at the Lahore Airport this morning. The project, which consists of an extensive network of radar and ground-to-air communication stations, offers unmatched air traffic facilities in the region to all aircraft using Pakistan's airspace. The Defense Minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, who inaugurated the center, said it will enable Pakistan to comply with the obligation of international, regional, and bilateral commitments by offering air traffic services through modern technology.

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Minister Discusses Alternatives to F-16's

BK1612094594 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Dec 94 p 12

[Report by M.A. Kamran]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore, Dec 15—Pakistan's defence are strong and its armed forces are capable to defend it against any aggression.

This was stated by Defence Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani while talking to newsmen after inaugurating the radar area control centre at the Lahore Airport this morning.

He said that comprehensive programme of development of three armed forces have been prepared to enter the 21st century as a development nation with stronger defence.

Replying to questions about the delivery of F-16 aircraft, the defence minister said the position is strict, and that US Defence Secretary is visiting Pakistan next month and the matter of F-16 aircraft will be taken up with him.

However, the defence minister said, Pakistan cannot sit idle and it was looking for their alternative to keep the country's defence strong. Negotiations, he said, are in progress between Pakistan and France to have alternative for F-16.

Afrat Shaban Mirani said that he was optimistic about the relations with America and added that investment of 54 billion from USA was the indication of good relations between Pakistan and America.

Answering a question about Gawadar port, the defence minister said that it has not been privatised and there was no such proposal under consideration so far. He, however, said that government was planning to start ferry service between Gawadar and Oman for prompt transportation of the goods between the two countries.

Replying to a question about the Kashmir issue, the minister said that tempo was building in the Held Valley due to international and internal movements.

He said that Pakistan has been and will continue providing moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris and they were not hopeless. The defence minister said that India has deployed six lakh army in the Held Valley which is one-third of its total force.

Speaking about the airport, the minister said the Federal government has set forth the goals to undertake expansion and renovation of several old airports as well as to construct new ones in the country. He said, the control centre is a part of the aeronautical communication and control project of the Civil Aviation Authority. With the emplacement of this automatic air traffic control facility, we stand in the comity of nations providing enhanced flight safety, increased flight operations efficiency and greater economy for air space users.

Mr Shaban emphasised that our government has a clear mandate given by the people of Pakistan. It has a manifesto aimed at the development of the country.

Earlier, Director General Civil Aviation Air Marshal (Retd) Syed Masood Hatif in his welcome address said that the radar area control centre forms part of the aeronautical communication and control project which is under implementation since 1985 at an estimated cost of Rs 2,065 million for providing radar control services to all airways and terminal areas in skies of Pakistan. An extensive network of primary and secondary radars and ground to air communication stations is being laid throughout the length and breadth of the country under this project, he said.

U.S. Official Predicts Increased Investment

BK1512093794 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 15 Dec 94 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. Investment"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visiting US Deputy Secretary for Energy William White in a briefing at Karachi has commended Pakistan's energy programme, saying that the country's initiative in this sector would entail a heavy flow of foreign investment. Mr. White's visit at the head of a highpowered 40-member delegation is a follow-up of an earlier visit by a delegation of top-ranking American investors, led by US Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, in September last which had resulted in the signing of agreements totalling over three billion dollars in the energy sector.

Pakistan is deficient in energy and its shortages are truly daunting. Our per capita energy consumption—less than 0.3 tonne oil equivalent (TOE)—is only one-sixth of the world's average. The state of affairs in our energy sector is therefore a matter of concern. Our reliance on imported energy is increasing. We are grossly deficient in electric power generation. The total production of power stands at about 9,000 MW against our aggregate demand of 11,000 MW. And a minimum of 1,000 additional megawatts of electricity is needed just to eliminate loadshedding. The demand for power is currently increasing by 8.8 per cent which would require another 7,000 MW generation capacity to be added to the system to enable the existing shortages to be overcome by the year 1998. Obviously, the 3,507 megawatts of electricity, to be added as a result of the agreements concluded on the visit of US Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, would go a long way in mitigating rigours of the electricity shortages which have become a hurdle in the socio-economic development of the country. But there is still a significant scope for foreign investment in power generation. It shows the economic wisdom of the present Government that it has given the energy sector top priority on its economic agenda A. Rs. 319 billion plan has been prepared for power generation in which the public sector will contribute a total of Rs. 217 billion, with the private

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sector contributing Rs. 102 billion. Direct foreign investment is expected to be a major source of funds in the future. The Government announced a policy package in March last, offering new incentives for power generation, including duty-free import of machinery for this purpose. Iqra [literacy program] and flood relief surcharges will be waived. The Government will buy electricity at the standard rate of 6.5 US cents per unit which dispenses with the requirement of negotiating with individual corporations. Hopefully, the US mission, led by Deputy Secretary Willing White, will prove as fruitful as that of Ms. Hazel O'Leary.

Editorial Fears Imposition of Martial Law

BK1412101494 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 13 Dec 94 p 4

[Editorial: "The Meeting of the Ruling Parliamentary Party; The Announcement of 'All is Well,' But"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, while addressing a meeting of the ruling parliamentary party, said that martial law will not be imposed in the country and the army will not be redeployed in Karachi. She declared that the current incidents of murder and plunder in Karachi are a temporary problem which will be overcome. She described the Senate chairman's ruling ordering the government to allow detained legislators to attend the proceedings of the parliament as unconstitutional and said if anybody has any doubt about this, he should go to court. The prime minister also has instructed the ministers and the members of the National Assembly and the Senate, who attended the meeting, to remain present in their respective houses.

The need for such a meeting of the ruling parliamentary party has been felt for a long time now and it is good that the meeting took place. According to certain reports, the prime minister adopted a very harsh attitude at the meeting. We don't care about that because it is for her and the members of the allied party to see what kind of relationship they have with each other. However, the manner in which the prime minister has given; the impression of "all is well" and has held the press responsible for the crisis situation in the country leads one to guess that either the prime minister is not being kept informed of the affairs of state or she is deliberately overlooking problems like the political crisis, the parliamentary deadlock, the murder and plunder, the rise in prices, and bribery. The fact is that the prime minister's announcement of "all is well" does not mean that everything is okay in the country. By declaring that martial law will not be imposed, she has indirectly admitted the fact that the people are feeling the danger of the enforcement of martial law in the country. According to today's newspapers, even Balkh Sher Mazari, the former caretaker prime minister and ally of the present government, has said that the enforcement of martial law in the country has become necessary. The military top brass also have held their meeting in Karachi, but details of that meeting have not been made public. One can only hope and believe that martial law will not be imposed.

Pakistan had come into being by virtue of a political and democratic struggle and the founders of this nation had pledged to make it a modern Islamic, democratic, parliamentary welfare state. However, the truth is that most of the history of our independence has passed under the shadow of military or autocratic rulers; since the 1950's, the military has been directly or indirectly controlling the government and national affairs. It also is obvious that a military regime is not a solution to the problem and that the imposition of martial law over and over again has further complicated national issues. Nevertheless, if the prime minister thinks that martial law will not be imposed, then it is heartening. The government, however, should not sit and be satisfied with the fact that the military is neutral and overlook the problems and difficulties being faced by the country and its people. It is the constitutional obligation of a civilized civilian democratic government to perform the duties it is supposed to perform. It is improper for such a government to shirk its responsibilities thinking that the military is neutral and is not in a mood to enforce martial law. In a developing and democratically unstable country like ours, the military does not grab power by itself, but it is made to do so, if past events are any witness. Such a situation is created through conspiracies and then the people begin to pray for military intervention and the distribution of sweets as a result of the imposition of martial law. The people are not to be blamed for this. The real culprits are the politicians who pave the way for martial law.

It is the duty of the present government to analyze realistically the situation. The conditions in Karachi are not the fabrications of newspapers. At least a dozen dead bodies are collected in Karachi everyday. Prominent citizens, like Salahuddin, have been shot and killed, while the ordinary people are becoming the victims of bullets every day and night. This situation does not give any good certificate [preceding word in English] to any government. The law and order situation throughout the country is bad and the people are thirsty for each other's blood because of linguistic, ethnic, and religious prejudices. General robbery, theft, murder, and plunder also are continuing unabated. The people are facing serious difficulties due to rising prices. The government fails to assess people's difficulties because of the statistical juggling of the Central Board of Revenue and the Ministry of Finance. If the government thinks that the people's stomachs can be filled only by signing investment documents worth billions of dollars, then it is mistaken. The prime minister and her ministers should sit together and find solutions to people's problems. The prime minister may be right when she instructs her ministers and members of the National Assembly and the Senate to maintain their presence in both the houses, but she should herself cut the number of her foreign tours and devote some time to national affairs, so that she can have

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a correct picture of the situation that can help her find solutions to people's problems.

The prime minister also has not admitted that there is a parliamentary deadlock in the country. She has described the Senate chairman's ruling as unconstitutional. The fact is that similar rulings have been issued by the speaker and deputy speaker belonging to her own party, but the government has not complied with them and is showing unnecessary intransigence in this regard.

Respecting the supremacy of parliament is essential in a democratic system and any attempt to make it controversial does not behoove a democratic government. The prime minister should make a realistic and objective analysis of the situation prevailing in the country and take immediate and visible steps to end chaos, murder, and plunder in Karachi, to check the price rises, and to curb bribery and corruption.

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